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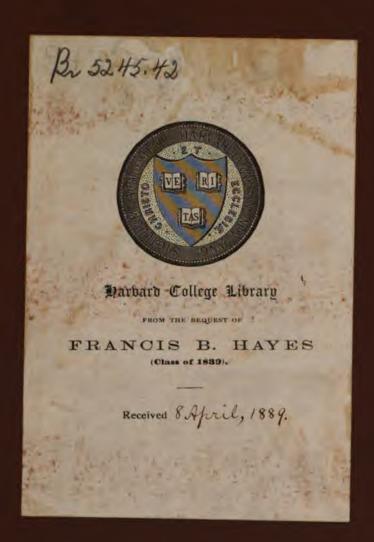
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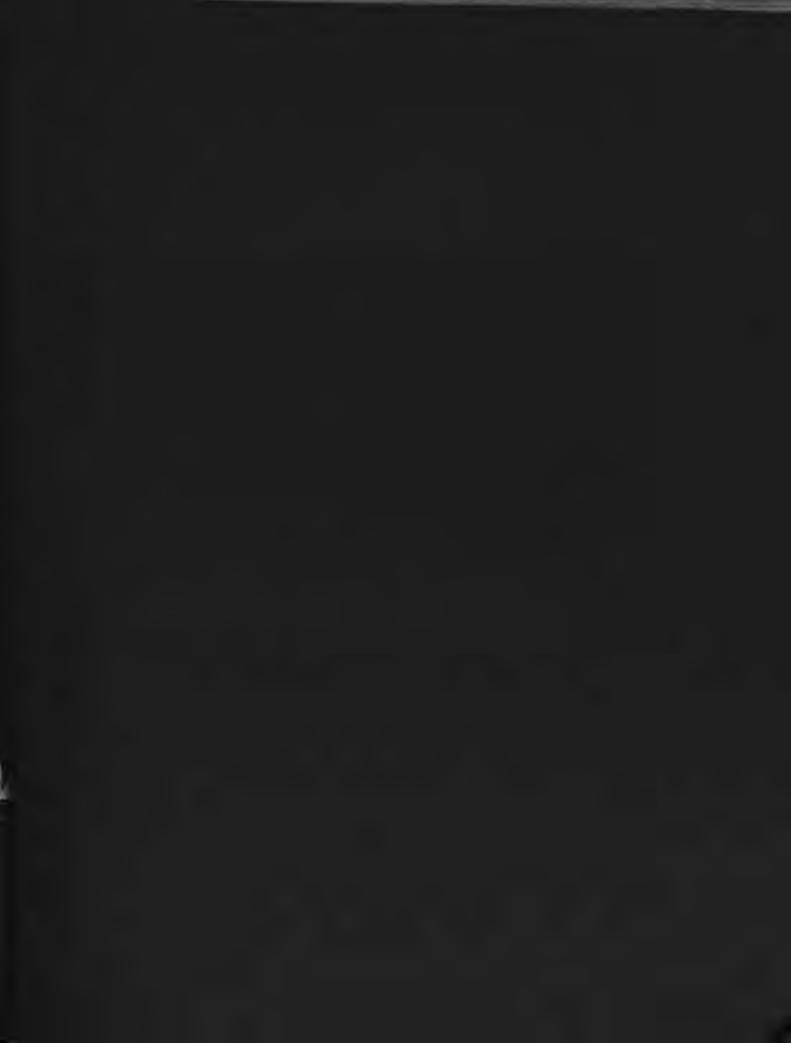
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HISTORY OF WIGAN.

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МІЗТОҚҮ ОҒ **W**ІĞĦN.



BY DAVID SINCLAIR.

VOLUME II.

WALL, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, "OBSERVER" OFFICE, WALLGATE.

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PREFACE TO VOLUME II.

UNDERTOOK to write the History of Wigan as a labour of love, well knowing that when my efforts were finished the annals of such an ancient and important borough would by no means be completed, and therefore I could not reasonably hope for more than the silent sympathies of those interested in such a work; but so great has been the encouragement, represented by critics and subscribers, that I have determined to prepare a third and last volume, which will bring the history of the town down to the present time.

Although by no means hopeful of pleasing everybody, as the impossible must necessarily be unattainable, I have overlooked no means and spared no efforts to make my History of Wigan a good, true, comprehensive, and interesting local work, and I believe that this second volume will be doubly welcome because of the great amount of hitherto unpublished matter, taken chiefly from the Corporation documents, registers, and churchwardens' accounts, which will be pleasing not only to the general reader, but to the antiquary.

The period embraced in this volume begins in 1640, the Commonwealth being by far the most important part of the History of the Borough, and ends with the Court Leet transactions of 1742, thus leaving nearly a century and a half to be written about.

References to the sources of information are invariably and carefully noted.

DAVID SINCLAIR.

Wigan, April, 1883.

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HISTORY OF WIGAN.

CHAPTER I.

The Short Parliament—Politics in Wigan in 1640—Poll Book for 1640—Result of Election—New Candidates for the Franchise—Petition to Parliament—Jury List—Cases tried at Court Leet of 1640—Gossip—Signs of National Trouble—Beginning of Revolution—The Government Petition to protect the King signed at Wigan—Principles of Parties—Condition of Wigan—First Outbreak—Colonel Roseworm's Account—Wigan Soldiers at Hindley—Wigan Recruits—Orlando Bridgeman—First Siege of Bolton—Invasion of Wigan by Assheton—Soldiers Firing from the Church Tower on the Parliamentarians.

E now enter on the locally interesting year of 1640, the first year of a most memorable era in England's annals. Charles I, by his infatuated prejudices, seemed to be impelled by an unseen power to force the country to revolution, the fires of which were already kindled smoulderingly in every town in England, although very little conciliation would have smothered them, at least, for the time. The king was in sore trouble, the people in discontent, and the Scots in arms. The more affairs went against the king, the more despotic he seemed to become, as if it were his own fate to ensure his ruin in the very face of favourable moderation. The Short Parliament summoned at the end of 1639 had been convened presumably to give advice, but in reality to grant supplies to carry on the Scottish war. Parliament, most willing and anxious to support the crown and king in everything constitutional, civilly declined to consider the question of supply in preference to all others, and the king, in a rage, dissolved the Parliament, after a

short existence of three weeks, which brevity of existence was doubtless the cause of the petition against the return in Wigan coming to nothing. The king immediately regretted the dissolution, but could not recall his rash act, and again relapsed, beyond indifference to national feeling, into despotism. Notwithstanding his infatuated tyranny, the Commons made commendable efforts to repress their aggravated anger, and eagerly sought a way of escape from the almost inevitable revolution, if not Affairs daily grew worse, till at length demonstrations of popular disapprobation everywhere proclaimed the outbreaking of discontent, and so loud did the cry of the aggrieved nation become that in less than six months after the dissolution of the Short Parliament the king, almost overwhelmed by his increasing troubles, ordered writs to be issued for a new Parliament. The excitement of the previous election, which had been great, sank into insignificance before that of the forthcoming election of 1640. Particularly so was this the case in Wigan, where the "inferior persons, labourers, and handicraftsmen" determined to bring all their energies to bear against the mayor and bailiffs, that they might have a voice in the general election—their just right, as they believed, but could not prove.

The true labourers in the vineyard of life seldom have their names preserved in the annals of their neighbourhood, although in their lifetime they may have been the most vigorously active, and their names known as household words. The names of many of those who have taken the most active share in building up the history of ancient Wigan have been thrown into the shade, or even into oblivion, as time rolled on. Amongst those forgotten toils must be numbered the humble, but arduous labours of many Wigan curates, whose benign presence must often have cheered the disconsolate hearts or desolate hearths of widows and orphans; yet their names, as if inscribed on preserved tombstones, may be gathered from the pages of the old registers, which are signed by them.

According to the signatures on the parish registers, Richard Callingwood was curate in 1640. The same parchment for October, 1641, is signed "Wm. Aynsworth and William Leigh, curats."

In the former year (1640), so full of local interest, the mayor was John Bullocke, and the aldermen were Robert Mawdesley, Christopher Bancks, William fforth, Willam Pilkington, John Brighouse, James Molyneux, George Rudall, Alexander fford, Lawrence fford, James Scott, and Edward Lloyd.

Daily throughout the town before the election boisterous declamatory meetings were held, at which speeches of the most violent determination were made with a view to encourage the timid and strengthen the convictions of others to assert their rights on the day of election, as if the Wigan election-cry were "Down with political monopoly." Instead of petitioning the Court Leet to be admitted as enrolled burgesses on paying the

required fine, and so having the unquestionable right of voting, these enthusiastic local politicians reasoned that they were as good and useful citizens, of as long and good social standing, and having privileges not inferior to the formally enrolled burgesses, and therefore they concluded they had as just and true claims to a voice in the general election, especially as no law could be shown to debar them from voting. Political feeling in Wigan never previously ran so high. The day for nominating the candidates arrived, and six gentlemen stood to contest the ancient borough. Three of them were old favourites of the previous election, Orlando Bridgeman, Ar., Thomas Rigby, Ar., and Edward Gardner, Ar. The others were John Standish, Radus Standish, and Sir Dudley Carleton.

On the day of election, in October, 1640, the Old Town Hall was crowded to the ceiling and the door, whilst many outside were vainly clamorous to get in. The roll, according to custom, was called by the Town Clerk, the votes registered, and the great interest taken in the election is manifest from the large number of votes recorded.

The poll book contains nine "pot" pages. There are 123 burgesses, of whom only 14 did not vote. Three more names, not included in this number, have a line drawn through them. Added to this there is a list of 173 honorary burgesses, two of which names are scratched out, and there are only 55 who voted. They are nearly all esquires or younger sons of gentlemen. The Mayor had seemingly a vote as a burgess and another as mayor, for he is the first on the common list and the last on the honorary one. Both votes he gave for Bridgeman and Rigby. As this interesting book has never been published, a copy of it, taken directly from the original, is here given. Mr. Rigby received 136, Mr. Bridgeman 126 votes, Mr. Gardner 57, Mr. John Standish 4, Radus Standish 2, and Sir Dudley Carleton 1.

Apud Wigan, 22nd die October, 1640.

Johes Bullocke, maior—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Rogerus Bradshawe, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Radus Standishe, Ald.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

— Rigby, Ald. (scratched out)
Robtus Mawdesley, Ald.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.
Ricus Worsley, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Chrofrus Bancks, Ald.
Willus fforth, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Willus Pilkington, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.
Jacobus Molyneux, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Johes Brighouse, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Georgius Rudall, Ald.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Willus Browne, Pewterer un Ballier—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Robtus Markland, sen., alter Ballier—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.
Rogerus Baron, un Attorn.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Galfrus Sherrington, alter Attorn.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Willus Watson, un Srvien-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Josephus Pennington, alter S'vien-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Edrus Lloyd, gen.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Willus Browne, gen.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Thomas Turner, gen. Alex. Thompson, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Henricus Scott-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Robtus Jollie-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner. Thurstanus Whalley-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Rogerus Scott, senior-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Ricus Casson-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Johes Scott-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Radus fforth-Robert Gardner and Orlando Bridgeman. Willus Baldwin-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby. Laurencius fford-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Willus Bancks-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Robtus Bancks-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Georgius Vanse-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Alex. fforer-Robert Gardner and Orlando Bridgeman. Henricus Marsden-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner, Gerrardus Bancks-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby. Gilbtus fforth-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Robtus Baron, Jun.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Edrus Sumpner-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Johes Standishe-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner. Jacobus Atherton-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Willus Gardner-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Radus Browne, Dyer-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex, Rigby. Jacobus Langshawe-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Thomas Rylands-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Rogerus Laithwaite-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Radus Astley—Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Gilbtus Ashton-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Robtus woods. Jacobus Higham-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Robtus Baldwin-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Alex. fforth, senior. Robtus Markland, Braseer-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner. Johes Lindsey-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Willus Wakefeilde-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner. Edmundus Molyneux-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman. Thomas Barrone-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner. Radus Barrone, senior (scratched out). Ambrosius Jollie-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby. Michus Pennington-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Willus fford de le gate.

Robtus Baron-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Kidd.

Radus Hindley-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby. Petrus Greene-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Robtus Langshaw-Robert Gardner and Orlando Bridgeman. Edrus Letherbarrow-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner Robtus Winstanley-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner. Edrus Ormishawe—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Rogerus Bibby. Jacobus Crouke-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Carolus Bancks-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Robtus Stringsmith (?)—Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Radus ffoster-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Pilkington—Robert Gardner and Orlando Bridgeman.

Edrus ffairclough-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Johes Platt-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Willus Cookeson-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Thomas Marshden-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Edrus Boulton, Taylor.

Radus Leighe-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Willus Lythgoe.

Humffrus Croytchloe.

Johes Molyneux-Mr. Alex. Rigby and Mr. John Standishe (?). Robtus Brighouse.

Thomas ffaircloughe-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Alex. fford, Braseer-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby.

Willus Glover-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Gilbtus fford, Braseer.

Radus Scott-Robert Gardner and Mr. Jo. Standishe.

Rogerus Woods-Robert Gardner and Orlando Bridgeman.

Edrus Pempton (Pemberton)-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby. Alex. Pennington.

Johes Winstanley—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Orrell—Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Seath Mason—Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Gilbtus Leigh—Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Humffrus Leighe-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Jacobus ffynch-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Thomas Tarleton-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Edrus Baron-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Robtus Briggs-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Bancks-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Johes Rigby—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Rogerus Scott, senior-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Jacobus Baldwin-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Alex. fforde, senior, Pewterer-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Galfrus Mouldinge-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Milo Turner-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Jacobus Watson-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Robtus Prescott-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Alex. Ormishawe.

Hugo Cowper-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Thomas Lowe-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Edrus Mason-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby.

Edrus Prescott-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Ricus Scott-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby.

Hugo Scott-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Petrus Anderton-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Johes Gregson-Orlando Bridgeman and Mr. Jo. Standishe.

Ricus Seddon-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Johes Lee-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Johos Thomas-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Markland-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

In the same poll book, commencing on a new sheet of paper, are the following:—

Noia Burgensin Vill de Burg De Wigan in Coun. Lanc.

Johes Bullocke, major (scratched out).

Willus Comes Derby (Earl Derby).

Ricus D- molyneux.

Gilbtus Hoghton, miles and Barronett-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman,

Radus ashton, Barronett.

Willus Gerard, Barronett.

Thomas Stanley, Barronett-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Alex. Radcliffe Balnei, miles.

Anthonius Sainct Johns, miles.

Cecill Trafford, miles.

Johes Stanope, miles.

Johes Talbot, miles-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Robtus Wingfeilde, miles.

Thomas Periont, miles.

Vivian Molyneux, miles.

Radus Blackstones, miles.

Petrus Leighe de Lyme, Ar.

Ricus Houghton (Ar. scratched).

Edrus Standishe, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Petrus Venables, Ar.

Chrofrus Anderton de Lostocke, Ar.

Thomas Gerrard, Ar.

Ricus Shuttleworth, Ar.

Chrofrus Bannistre, Ar.

Robtus Blundell, Ar.

Alex. Rigby de Burgh, Ar.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Ashton de Downham, Ar.

Johes Atherton, Ar.

Hugo Rigby, Ar.

Alex. Rigby de Midleton, Ar

Orlando Bridgeman, Ar.

Radus Ashton de Midleton, Ar.

Thomas Standishe, Ar.—Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby.

Johes Moore, Ar.

Edrus Ashton, Ar.

Thomas Charnocke, Ar.

Caroulus Gerard, Ar.

Johes Poole, Ar.

Ratcliffe Ashton, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Willus Houghton, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Worthington, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Jacobus Winstanley.

Randulphus Rerd, Ar.

Henricus Bannastre, Ar.

Thomas Langtree, Ar.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Cottam (?), Ar.

Willus Anderton, Ar.

ffrancisus Sherrington, Ar.

Carolus Gerard, Ar. (scratched).

Petrus Daniell, Ar.

Hugo Chomley, Ar.

Rogerus Nowell, Ar.

Ricus Alport, Ar.

Johes Moore, Ar.

Johes Gerrard, Ar.

Edrus Bromley, Ar.

ffrus Leighe, Ar.

Petrus Leighe, Ar.

ffrus Downes, jun., Ar.

Radus Snead, Ar.

Edrus Bridgeman, Ar.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Henricus Byrom, Ar.

Ricus Urmston, Ar.

Josuah Radcliffe, Ar.

Abrahamus Langton, Ar.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Edrus Scarsbrocke, Ar.

Henricus Cayles (?), Ar.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Petrus Grim, Ar.

Robtus Chernocke, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Eccleston, Ar.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Georgius ffog, Ar.

Adamus Hulton, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Robtus Browne, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Bartholemeus Hesketh, Ar.

Thomas Lee, Ar.

Johes Houlcrofte, Ar.

Henricus ---reile, Ar.

Willus Bradshawe, Ar.

Josephus Klinesman, Ar.

Willus Smith, Ar.

Ricus Holland, Ar.

Samuel Bispham, Medicine Doctor.

Hamlett Hyde, Ar.

Willus ffarington, Ar.

Rogerus Kirby, Ar.

Willus Ratcliffe, Ar.

Robtus Molyneux, Ar.

Georgius Lee, Ar.

Edrus Chisnall, Ar.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Ricus Hackinall (?), Ar.

Willus ffarrington, jun., Ar.

Thomas Longworth, Ar.-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Alex. Johnson, Ar.

Jacobus Chantrell, Ar.

Thomas Gerrard, jun., de Ince, gen.

Edrus Holt, gen.

Edrus Morres, gen.

Edrus Rigby, gen.

Ricus Chorley, gen.

George Rigby, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Sir Dudley Carleton.

Thomas Lathom, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Ricus Ashton, gen.

Abrahamus Launce, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Alex. Holte, gen.

Olivus Markland, gen.

Johes Bretherton, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Browne, gen.

Thomas Markland, gen.

Georgius Warren, gen.

Lyonell ffarrington, gen.

Johes Dunbabin (?), gen.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Radus Heaton, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Ince, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Anderton, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Henricus ffleetwood, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Carolus Walmesley--Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Thomas Standish de Duxbury, gen.-Robert Gardner and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Berrington, gen.

Petrus Bennett, gen.

Johes Eccleston, gen.

Willus Dicconson, gen.

Petrus ffulke, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Houlcrofte, gen.

Thomas Travers-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Bridge, clicus-Orlando Bridgeman and Robert Gardner.

Robtus ffogg, clicus-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Petrus Shawe, clicus.

Jacobus Whittakers, clicus.

Robtus Shawe, clicus.

Edrus Eltonhead, gen.

Edrus Tarbocke, Ar.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Alex. Bradshawe, gen.

Radcliffe Gerrard, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby

Gilbtus Gerrard, gen.

Hugo Houghton, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Ricus Standishe, gen.

Alex. Standishe, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Rogerus Urmeston, gen.

Thomas Sergeant, gen.

Edrus Boulton de Abram, gen.

Johes Hulton, gen.

Johes Osbaldeston, gen.

Ricus Bannastre, gen.

Josephus Rigby, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Robtus Shawe (Shane?) de highbullock, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Hugo fforth, gen.

Olivus Martin, gen.—Robert Gardener and Alex. Rigby.

Alex. Greene, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Johes Greene, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Radus Bancks, gen.

Robtus Booth, gen.

Johes Aynscowe, gen.

Johes Croston, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Radus Standishe, Ar.

Willus Stopforth, gen.

Radus Langton, gen.-Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Alex. Jollie, gen.

Thomas Gerard de Newhall, gen.

Edrus Parr, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Edrus Parr, gen.-Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

Thomas Alburgh, gen.

Elizeus. Hey, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Radus Standishe, Ar.

Geogius Walton, gen.

Philippus Osborne, gen.

Egidius Heyshame, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Jo. Standishe.

Willus Prescott, Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Ricus Sankey, gen.

Thomas Browne, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Robert Gardner.

Johes Gardner, gen.

Abell Asheworth, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Bobert Gardner.

Radus Scott de Pembton, gen.—Alex. Rigby and Orlando Bridgeman.

Johes Bullock, Maior.—Orlando Bridgeman and Alex. Rigby.

The duly conducted election was over, but by no means the excitement, for to the original high-pressure enthusiasm was now added the chagrining disappointment and determination to act of the new candidates for the franchise. A magnified repetition of the attempts made at the end of the previous election was made to The whole Corporation and burghal class had the warning enforce their rights. ringing in their ears that if the right to vote were refused every effort would be made to disannul the election. The names of those claimants were not on the poll book, and consequently could not be called, so that all went peaceably until the end of the roll call, when they, there and then, demanded that their names should be added and their votes registered. Threats to petition Parliament against the returns were the strongest, if not the only, arguments they could use, but in vain. They then publicly and boisterously vented their determination to have a new election in which they should have a voice. It would have been bad policy to have attempted to treat the matter with silent contempt. The mayor and bailiffs solemnly and formally heard their claims, and refuted their arguments on the same grounds as had been done less than a year before. The burgesses would not yield, and it was determined that a petition should be sent to Parliament; but the burgesses, anxious not to be behind, drew up a petition of their own to the Commons relating all that had taken place and was apparently on the eve of taking place. In this petition they were not forgetful to speak favourably of the ancient borough, the importance of the enrolled burgesses, and of the efficiency and purity of the local government. Whether the unenrolled townsmen actually did petition cannot now be ascertained, but the following is a true copy of the hitherto unprinted petition of the Corporation :-

"To the right hoble, the Knights, Cittizens, and Burgesses assembled in the Comons house of Parliament.

The humble petition of the Maior and Burgesses of the Town and Burrow of Wigan, in the County palatyne of Lanc. :--

Humbly beseeching this hoble. house of Comons assembled in Parliamt: That whereas the said Towne of Wigan is an Antient Towne Corporate, and so haith beene beyond the memory of men And for above the space of 400 yeares last past And during that tyme hath hadd a Maior who is and haith been Chieffe Officer and Govrnor in the said Towne And Bailiffs, sergeants, and others, assistants and under officers there for gov nement of that towne, who ever hath been yearly chosen out of the Burgesses of the said Towne for the tyme being And elected by the greater votes of the burgesses p'sent of that Corporation. Which burgesses are and from tyme to tyme hath ever been incorporated and receyved into that Corporation by election of the burgesses then being and by takeing of a solome and ancyent oathe called the Burgesses' oathe of that Corporation, and afterwards enrouled as Burgesses in the Burges roule of the Towne there kept for that purpose. And that all Burgesses sent to Parliament to serve for that Burrow for the tyme whereof the memory of men is not to the contrary have been chosen onely by the enroulled Burgesses of that Corporation, and by no others nor in any otherwise. And that the Maior and Burgesses of the said Towne have during all the memory of men hadd and kept Courts Leets and other Courts in the said Towne for administration of Justice, ffayres, marketts, and other liberties there, to the greate good and peaceable government of the said Towne and countrye thereabouts. By reason whereof the said Burgesses have been and are the better enabled

to give and paie subsidies, ffifteenes, and other duties, which said liberties and priviledges, wth. other good customes and ffranchises not repugnant to lawe, have been used and enjoyed in the said Towne by the Burgesses of the same. And by them and att there own chardges meantayned and defended to there greate costs upon all suits and stryffs arrysinge dureinge the tyme afforeaid. All which they clayme to belonge unto them as well by precripcion and usuage as by ancyent charter of King Henry the Third.

But now so yt is, maye yt please you, that divers inferior p'sons, inhabitants, laborers, and handicraftsmen, being ffree only to trade within the said Towne of Wigan, and no enrouled or sworne Burgesses of the said Corporation, by the instigacon and incyteinge of others of uncivill government, have combyned, confederated, and complotted together, and doo give yt out in speeches, that they will disanull and anihilate the elections of Burgesses by the Burgesses of the said Corporation of Wigan alreadye made, certifyed, and sent to this hoble house of Comons in Parliament, which was made in a ffree and publique manner, as is certifyed, and accordinge to the usual and accustomed and ancyent waye in the same Burrowe used dureinge all the tyme whereof the memory of men is not to the contrary, as by the oathes of ancyent testimonyes of 80 yeares of age tht. yt shall bee thought fitt will appeare. And the said p'sons, Inhabitants, and Tradesmen doo also give yt out in speeches that they will have a newe election of Burgesses for this said Burrow to be sent to this Parliament, wherein they will have as good election and votes as any the sworne and enrouled Burgesses of the same Burrow have. Altho' being often required they cannot make yt to appeare that they or any others of theire capacityes att any tyme formerly ever hadd any votes or voyces in election of the Burgesses for Parliament.

The petition humble sente is (ffor that the honoble house of Comons assembled in Parliament is the ffountaine of all Justice, att whose feete the petitioners doo prostrate themselves, theire lyves, libertyes, lands, and goods) you will be pleased they may enjoy that peace in the libertyes of the said Towne and Burrow of Wigan wen they and theire processors, Burgesses of the same Burrow, heretofore have ever hadd and done. And that the election of Burgesses for the said Comons by them already made, sent, and certifyed to this Parliament maye stand. And the petitioners, according to theire bounden duties, shall pray for yr pious, prosperous, good, and happy successe in all yor affayres.

Know all men to whom these p'nts shall come That wee, John Bullocke, Maior of the Towne and Burrowe of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, and the Burgesses of the said Towne and Burrowe, doo by these p'nts constitute, ordayne, and make James Winstanley, of Gray's Inn, Esq., one of the Burgesses of the said Town and Burrowe, doo by these p'nts constitute, ordayne, and make James Winstanley, of Grays Inn, Esq., one of the Burgesses of our said Towne and Burrowe, our true and lawful Attorney, to exhibite, p'ferr, and prosecute for us and in our names and behalffe. A petition by us made to the right hobie the knights, citizens, and Burgesses now assembled in the Commons house of Parliament. And whereunto this writing is annexed. And to doo all other things necessary and expedient in and concerning the p'mis's. All which wee doo hereby ratify and allowe. And in witness hereof wee have hereunto put the Comon Seale of our said Towne and Burrowe, the Seaventh daye of November, in the Sixteenth year of the Reigne of our Sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, firance, and Ireland, defender of the ffaith, &c. A.D. 1640.

JOHN BULLOOK.

Vera copia."

The Jury list for 1640 contains one hundred and seventeen names, beginning with the Mayor (Bullock) and aldermen. Of these, unfortunately, the trades of only seven are given, of which four are braziers, one a pewterer, one a smith, and one a dyer. From this old Jury list, which has never hitherto been published, I here give a

list of aldermen, bailiffs, attorneys, and those whose trades are named. The first on the list is Johes Bullocke, Maior, which is immediately followed by the names of eleven aldermen, viz., Robtus Mawdesley, ald.; Chroferus (Christopher) Bancks, ald.; Willus fforth, ald.; Willus Pilkington, ald.; Johos Brighouse, ald.; Jacobus Molyneux, ald.; Georgius Rudall, ald.; Alex. fford, ald.; Laurencius fford, ald.; Jacobus Scott, ald.; Edrus Lloyd, ald. Willus Browne and Robtus Markland are then bracketted ball (bailiffs). Rogerus Baron and Balfrus Sherrington are next bracketted attor. (attorneys), and Willus Watson and Josephus Pennington are bracketted stries. Radus Browne, dyer; Robtus Markland, brazeer; Alex. fford, junior, pewterer; Gilbtus fford, brazeer; Radus Scott, brazeer; Rogerus Wood, smith; Nance (destroyed), junior, brazeer, are the only gentlemen whose occupations are mentioned after their names. The corner of the document is wanting, so that only eleven of those chosen as jurymen can be given, the conclusion that they alone were elected being arrived at solely by the fact that opposite their names the word jury is written. Their names are Ricus Casson, Ambrosius Jollie, Robtus Baron, Thomas Pilkington, Radus Leigh, Johos Molyneux, Gilbtus Leigh, Thomas Tarleton, ell, Edrus Prescott, and Johos Lee.

The cases that came before these gentlemen for trial are written in the most illegible Latin and English combined, and the manuscript is moth-eaten and time-worn besides. The first legible judgment is:—"We find that Crosse shall sitt ffour houres in the stocks att the Market Cross or else pay 3s. 3d." The next case shows that sanitation was not altogether despised, and that tenants were responsible for the cleanliness of their own premises. The entry in the Court Calendar is:—"Wee doe presente Robert Baron for not clensinge his gutter accordinge to the last order of the last Leete." For this he was apparently fined. The decision of the jury was:—"Wee doe find that the said Robert Baron shall sufficiently clense the said gutter att or before the first day of July next upon the like sume afforesaid of 1s."

Richard Rycrofte was "gatewaiter." In his name, but in the same clerk's handwriting, is the entry:—"Wee present Roger Browne Dawber for emptienge a barrell of stinkinge mucke upon the kilne medinge fides in mia xid. and referr the fine to Mr. Mayor's discrecion."

"Wee prsent Thomas Laithwaite for divers abusive words against Mr. Mayor that now is, to sitt foure houres in the stocks att the Markett Crosse, and to submitt himself before he bee released. Wee doo fine Peeter deane, for strikeing the said Thomas Laithwaite att the same tyme, 2s."

These transactions of the Court Leet are headed:—"Burgus de Wigan in Com. Lanc. Inquisico capt ibm Decimo nono die Junii Anno Regni Regis Dm Caroli. Angliæ etc Decimo septimo coram Joho Bullocke gen maior vill and burg."

There was serious matter for men to talk about over their glass of beer in the There were no local newspapers and exceedingly few news carriers, yet they had stirring news from London, from Scotland, and from Ireland, and news, too, that, even in the very smallest of friendly companies, created dissension and ill-will. There were great doings in London with the king and his parliament, and often. over the evening glass, the face of the local politician literally flared with rage as he defended the royal conduct against those who feebly asserted dissent. Buckingham's assassination was a tale never to be forgotten. Hampden was re-tried in every village inn, acquitted by some persons and condemned by others. Religious arguments in the beerhouse frequently ended in a fight on the street. Deaths, marriages, births, and common scandal were, like the ever-varying weather, subjects on which even the most ignorant were qualified to speak. News had just come from London that Hugh Bullock had died and left a great fortune, and all Wigan was proud of him because he was a Wiganer, and out of his great wealth had left £100 to the Mayor and aldermen, to be applied in binding apprentices and for the relief and benefit of the poor people. Some old inhabitant, as he smoked his pipe or took his pinch of snuff, told the history of young Bullock's leaving Wigan, going up to London, and, after many hardships, but strict and conscientious attention to business, acquiring wealth. Such were the subjects of common talk in Wigan, and as people of such limited education had few ideas of their own, the same subject in the same words was talked threadbare and stale. But the frivolous language of the gossip was gradually being thrust aside by subjects of far greater moment, which were daily waxing stronger and taking a deeper hold of the public mind. Local matters were at all times interesting, but now national affairs were becoming local concerns. revolution was mildly begun, for Parliament had taken the first step to protect itself against the political idiosyncracies of royalty by enacting that it could not be dissolved without its own consent.

The two members for the county in 1640 were William Farrington, of Worden, and Ralph Assheton. The former had been High Sheriff in 1636. His family came to the county in the reign of Edward III. The last of the male line was James Nowell Farrington, who died in 1848. The member was a staunch Royalist, and had his estates confiscated by the Parliamentarians. The other member, Ralph Assheton, afterwards became the chief local commander of the Cromwellian party during the civil war, and actively distinguished himself in the Wigan conflicts.

The government was a revolutionary, but loyal one, for the members, almost to a man, were of good family, education, and property, and by no means adventurers with nothing at stake. The prison doors were thrown open to Star-chamber victims of injustice, illegal judgments reversed, courts and commissions that were a disgrace to the

country abolished, and the triennial bill passed, for it was not overlooked that the king's declared opinion about the suspension of Parliament was, "if you do not your duty, mine would order me to use those other means which God has put into my hands;" and, moreover, it was well known that "he hated the very name of Parliaments." The real state of the country could only be observed aright by men of the deepest penetration. To the ordinary eye the condition of affairs in England stood in happy contrast to those of the Continent. Trade and commerce were steadily progressing, and national prosperity looked more healthy than ever it had done, yet, undoubtedly, beneath this apparent prosperous contentment people were "nursing their wrath to keep it warm." Both king and people were stubborn, and neither would yield, whilst unappeasable discontent made emigrants of many.

Both Commons and people had much cause to complain of the king's unconstitutional conduct, which they unhesitatingly condemned; yet, when a rumour spread that an insurrection was being contemplated, they were the first to determine to maintain their religion and protect the person of their king. A bill was drawn up to that effect, and sent to every constituency, in order to be signed by all persons over 18 years, whether householders or otherwise. The names of those who would not sign were also taken, and thus, although no punishment was inflicted for non-compliance, a census of the political bias and religious feelings of the people was taken. Wigan was amongst the first towns to send back the protestation signed as required. Signatures for the most part were written at the Parish Church after the evening service.

At the beginning of the Revolution politics in Wigan were of rather a one-sided nature. The vast majority of Wiganers were Royalists, and so was one of the two members. Revolutionary ideas were merely entertained to be refuted. Although Wiganers keenly felt the hardships of the king's unjust government, they could not dream of rebellion. The country was the king's, and their political creed was "the king can do no wrong."

Civil and religious freedom were threatened with destruction, and many sailed to the colonies in search of liberty; but this emigration was forbidden by an Order in Council, because the country was thus being drained of its strength and its wealth. Discontent grew, and, rapidly developing into indignant dissatisfaction, broke out and threatened to destroy the social ties of private life. Nobody was, or could be, idle. Pens and swords were alike drawn into requisition. Papers of a most denunciatory character were spread broadcast over the country. Divines became politicians, and politicians soldiers. Those at first timid and undecided became fierce advocates and partisans on the winning side, for to be neutral was to be an enemy to both parties. Every warlike expression in the Scriptures was culled by the

Parliamentarians, drawn through the intellectual mill of the ready writer, and brought out of the printers' hands in the shape of Civil War Tracts, the originals of which can only now be purchased at fabulous prices, although then thrust into every hand or thrown down at every door like ordinary modern advertisement bills. Every warrior of the Old Testament was held up as a prototype of a Parliamentarian, and every pet expression of the New became household political words, and thus politics and religion, for once blended harmoniously together, were the storms that lashed men's minds into frenzy. For nine long years the storm raged before the climax was reached, during which time towns were destroyed, properties confiscated, agriculture brought nigh to a standstill, trade impeded, homes desolated, and the country brought to the very verge of ruin as the natural result of civil war.

In two short years religion and politics drove the whole country mad. faithful and loyal town of Wigan, "the abode of malignants," was drawn into the general vortex, and became conspicuous in the history of the next nine years, being in itself strongly fortified and near Lathom House. During that time Lord Strange, eldest son of the sixth Earl of Derby, was the real hero of its history. His family being impoverished by lawsuits, he had gone to the Continent in search of a rich wife, as is the custom of those whose home estates are encumbered, for far-away fowls have pretty feathers. He succeeded in finding one worth more than "her weight in gold," although poverty at first compelled him to borrow money to buy clothes suitable for appearing in society. He returned home to find England in a most unsettled state—the political atmosphere grown darker and more threatening. after his return the Civil War was on the eve of breaking out, and, as Lieutenant of his county and the representative of a great family and greater party, an unhappy work was marked out for him for the rest of his life. He commanded the Royalist army stationed at Wigan. The first blood in the Great Rebellion was shed by this Wigan contingent in Manchester, whither Lord Derby (Lord Strange, at his father's request, had already assumed this title) had gone to demand the gunpowder and ammunition stored in it. The request was refused, and Derby withdrew; but, again entering with a few followers as a guest of the Manchester Royalists, an affray ensued on the streets, and a weaver, the first victim of the Civil War, was killed on the 15th July, 1642. Colonel Roseworm, an egotistical German mercenary, the defender of Manchester on this occasion, in his Civil War Tract, says :-- "The town of Manchester, amongst others, apprehending a manifest danger of ruin from the Earl of Derby and his strength, who appeared for the king; having none that knew what belonged to military affairs, either for offence or defence, and having observed or heard of me that I was bred up in soldiery from my youth, well skilled in fortifications, nor contemptibly furnished

with military abilities, propounded and concluded with me a contract under hand and seal, for half a year, engaging me, by the utmost of my advice and skill, to endeavour the security of their town, and engaging themselves, in consideration of my services for that time, to pay me £30, we agreed accordingly. I must be bold to say, that my undertaking of this service (though for a poor reward) as it was not small in itself; so it proved in the consequents as considerable both to the weakening of the king's party, and the strengthening of the Parliament is, as any action in that kind, through the passages of that year; for (let it be considered) four for one in that town, if not more, favoured my Lord Derby, and had publicly vowed to cut my throat if ever I attempted any works to keep him out. The party who favoured my undertakings were full of fears, and confusions, not knowing which way to turn themselves; the town in all its entrances open, and without any defence about it; a powerful enemy expected to come upon them, which within three weeks of our contract fell out. The very next morning after my contract my Lord Derby sent two gentlemen to me with £150 as a present from his lordship, with an invitation to attend him at Lathom. 'Twas easy to see what the drift of this kindness was, But £30, if backed by my promise, contract, or engagement, I have ever learned to value above all offers; honesty being worth more than gold. Returning, therefore, my thanks for the earl's nobleness, and the money with my thanks, I dismissed these gentlemen, and addressed myself to my trust." The Parliamentarian party was now roused to action, and in two months from this affray Derby besieged Manchester, but was summoned, with his 3,000 Lancashire men, to assist the king at Shrewsbury, and from thence he returned to Wigan. Meanwhile Fairfax, Cromwell's right-hand man, had arrived in Manchester, attacked and taken Preston. Wars and rumours of wars now filled the whole country. The superstitious people of Lancashire, living in the very thick of the turmoil, saw great sights in the heavens and heard strange sounds. Every phenomenon was considered an omen. Men and women believed the distress of the country to be the direct visitation of Providence for "somebody's" Even the aurora borealis was considered a supernatural manifestation.

The storm seemed at first likely to overwhelm the Parliamentarians. Lancashire was the great arena of Puritanism, and there was the theatre of the fiercest early struggles. Lord Derby was the local hero of the Royalists. He was the terror of the rebels and the pride of all loyal persons. Most of his followers were at first drawn from Wigan, Ormskirk, and Lathom House, and their head-quarters were in Wigan, and, consequently, they were called the Wigan army. His own brave and unselfish example made even his raw recruits fight like veterans, and although he was often defeated, it was from the want of numbers and not from any lack of good generalship. War was now the business of all men, and even on Sundays—on which

day many of the greatest battles have been fought-military preparations and exploits were actively attended to. One of the earliest fierce local skirmishes of this Wigan army took place on Sunday, 27th November, 1642, near Chowbent, and is thus described in an old War Tract:-"The last Sabbath, as we were going towards the church, a post rode through the country informing us that the Earl's (Derby's) troops were coming towards Chowbent; whereupon the country people rose, and before one of the clock on that day we had gathered together 3,000 horse and foot encountering them at Chowbent aforesaid, and beating them back to Leigh, killing some and wounding many; where you would wonder to have seen the forwardness of the young youths, farmers' sons. We drove them to Lowton Common, where they, knowing our foot to be far behind, turned face about and began to make head against us, whereupon began a sharp, although a short encounter; but when they perceived our full and settled resolution, they made away as fast as their horses could carry them, and we after them, killing, wounding, and taking prisoners about 200 of them; and we never lost a man, only we had three of our men wounded, but not mortally. The nailers of Chowbent, instead of making nails, have busied themselves in making bills and battle-axes; and also this week the other part of the country meet, and not only intend to stand upon their guard, but to disarm all the Papists and malignants within their precincts, and to send them prisoners to Manchester to keep house with Sir Cecil Trafford, who is there a prisoner. The men of Blackburn, Padiham, Burnley, Clitheroe, and Colne, with those sturdy churls of the two forests, Pendle and Rossendale, have raised their spirits, and are resolved to fight it out rather than their beef and fat bacon should be taken from them." On their return the Wigan Cavaliers, inflated by their little victory, pulled down the pulpit at Hendon (Hindley) Chapel, played cards in the pews, took away the Holy Bible and tore it in pieces, sticking the leaves upon the posts in several parts of the town, and saying, "This is the Roundhead's Bible." This was in December, 1642, just before Derby, with his two field-pieces, marched against Blackburn.

Lords Strange and Molineux, again, on Sunday, 25th September, 1642, besieged Manchester, which was strongly fortified with posts and chains, and barricades of mud at the ends of its ten streets. They had 4,000 foot, 200 dragoons, 100 light horse, and seven pieces of cannon. The siege and frequent severe sallies lasted some days. Derby's men damaged and plundered the houses, carrying away booty to the amount of £10,000. They failed, however, to take the town, and after losing 200 men, the Manchester people having two killed and four wounded retired from the siege. It was then that Captain Thomas Standish, son and heir of the Catholic family, of Duxbury Hall, fell, fighting under Lord Strange. He was a brave and zealous Royalist, although his father espoused the Parliamentarian cause, and was a

member of the Long Parliament, much against the feelings, and to the disgust, of his loyal Catholic family and connections.

Men of peaceful and quiet habits were compelled to be soldiers: master and servant were forced to muster for drill: every town was socially divided: old friends were at enmity, and drawing their swords against each other: sons were in one party fighting against their fathers in the opposite: some laid down the pen and took up the sword: others left their ploughs and armed themselves with pitchforks. scarcely any trade flourished but that of the smith, who wielded the hammer with his brawny arm night and day. Amongst others, the Mayor of Wigan, like one of his predecessors in the reign of Edward II., was solicited by the king to bring him money, horses, and arms, on security of his forests and parks for the principal, and eight per cent. interest. Many were forced into the service, and thus the Royalist party was weakened. As Adam Martindale, a contemporary native of Lancashire, says:--" My brother Henry, who was then about twenty-four years of age, knew not where to hide his head, for my Lord of Derby's officers had taken up a custom of summoning such as he and many older persons, upon paine of death, to appeare at generall musters, and thence to force them away with such weapons as they had, even if they were but pitchforks, to Bolton; the reare being brought up with troopers that had commission to shoot such as lagged behind, so as the poor countrymen seemed to be in a dilemma of death, either by the troopers if they went not on, or by the great and small shot out of the towne if they did. hard usage of the countrey to no purpose (for what could poor cudgeliers doe against a fortified place?) much weakened the interests of the Royalists (called the Cavaliers), and many yeomen's sonnes, whereof my brother Henry was one, went to shelter themselves in Bolton, and too keep armes there."

Members of Parliament were then men of the sword, and both made and maintained the laws. These were times of little talking and much action. When duty called, the member was ready either for the floor of the House or the field of the foe. Such a man was the member for Wigan, Orlando Bridgeman, a lawyer of great ability, son of the Bishop of Chester, and Rector of Wigan. In 1642 he joined Lord Strange without hesitation, augmented his levies, and took a very active part as an ordinary officer in every affray of the regiment. From that day his decision, success, and gallantry made him a marked man. But every man was then marked either by one side or the other, for such is the unhappy state of any country during a civil war that every man suspects his neighbour. Bridgeman, the member for Wigan, was marked by the Royalists for promotion, and by the Parliamentarians for execution. His fortunes were, like those of his royal master, defeat in spite of his great courage, daring, and faithfulness; but he was loyal to the last, through

His "disloyalty" to the rebels disabled him from sitting in the trials and disasters. Long Parliament, and thus Wigan was deprived of his valuable services, for he was a good, as well as a great man. Like other distinguished Royalists, he lived, in times of disaster and defeat, like an exile in his own land, wandering in disguise, with occasional glimpses of prosperity to brighten his hopes. In the darkest hour he was true to his king and exiled prince, and, after the Restoration he received thanks from his country and honour from his king. He was made chief baron of the Exchequer afterwards Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and was the first Englishman advanced to the dignity of baronet by Charles II., under the name of Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Great Lever. He was an able lawyer and an honest man, although two of his biographers speak disparagingly of the manner in which he discharged the duties of Equity Judge, and yet he certainly gave his judgments without fear or favour. He spoke fearlessly against the attainder of Strafford, when it was dangerous to go against current opinion, for he would not be a party to the iniquitous conduct of He was also one of the executors of Lady Derby, of Lathom House celebrity, who in her will, as expressing her heartfelt dislike to her wayward and unfilial son, said, "I give to my son, Charles, Earl of Derby, five pounds." died at his residence in Teddington in 1674.

Bolton was a thorn in the flesh of malignant Wigan, and Wigan was a standing menace to the Boltonian Parliamentarians. The desire of each was to capture and Opportunities were eagerly looked for and seized. Wigan was destroy the other. strongly fortified, whereas Bolton had only been hastily strengthened by mud walls two yards thick, and a chain. Roseworm had fortified it, and Colonel Assheton, an able and daring soldier, commanded its forces. Jealous of each other's craftiness, each town kept constant watch over the movements of the other, and scouts continually patrolled the neighbourhood. No sooner was it known at Wigan that most of the forces had been withdrawn from Bolton to aid in the attack on Preston than the Wigan army hurried, as from ambush, to possess the undefended town. But the inhabitants had all become soldiers, and, after recovering from their first surprise, bravely defended their town. The leaders of the Royalists were Captain Anderton, of Lostock, Captain Anderton, of Birchley, and Sir Gilbert Gerard. They essayed to enter the town by Bradshawgate. A fierce contest ensued, and the inhabitants were driven behind their temporary fortifications at the point of the The few soldiers remaining in the garrison soon rallied, and great Royalist pikes. gallantry was displayed on both sides; but the Puritans' muskets and pikes were too much for the Royalists.

The Wiganers had attacked with fierce determination, and shot their great guns fourteen times against the town. The Boltonians boldly essayed in great numbers to

repel them. Very hot and determined skirmishing went on for over four hours. Many townsmen were killed; but the Wigan men were mowed down in far greater numbers, yet they would not yield, but again and again attacked with renewed vigour, and were repulsed each time with great loss. Their thinned but unwavering ranks made a last attack about four o'clock in the afternoon, and the besieged, encouraged by their greater numbers and previous success, rushed upon them with increased fierceness, and literally swept them from the field, pursuing the fugitives for several miles towards Wigan, and thus Derby's attack on Bolton on Thursday, 16th February, 1643, failed. His men received honourable burial next day at the hands of the enemy. Twenty-three of his soldiers were buried in one grave. A list of 78 Bolton men, who were buried at the same time, is given in the Bolton Parish Register.

A strange tale in connection with the storming of Bolton is credited to this day. A man called Isherwood and his wife were both killed by the attacking Wiganers. As the dead woman lay in the street her starving baby was vainly attempting to obtain nourishment from her breast, on which an old woman, seventy years of age, who had not so nourished a child for over twenty years, took up the starveling and placed it at her breast, whence it immediately, and seemingly miraculously, succeeded in obtaining nourishment.

This was the first attack of Wigan on Bolton (16th February, 1643) the following account (a Civil War Tract) of which was written two days afterwards by an eye-witness: -- "On Thursday morning last the enemy approached the town of Bolton, with the forces from Wigan at the top of the Pike (which is within a mile of the town) before there was any certain intelligence brought into them within, so that the enemy was in view before they were aware; and, marching furiously on, their horses presently surrounded the town, and by the guidance of some of our neighbours that were amongst them, and of the company, so observed the ways and bridges, that if they saw any come in to the aid of the town, they presently rode at them, and took their arms from them, such as they had, pitchforks and the like; but not many were thus met with, for upon the sight of the horse the unarmed men rather drew back, for the present being no considerable number, and the foot came marching down towards Bradshawgate end, where there was a great work, and some company of musketeers placed therein, but the enemy so furiously set upon them at that place with both musket and great cannon, that they forced them out of the work (but there was another work at Hardmans, of the Crosses), and presently, they having wheeled about, got betwixt us and the town, and forced Captain Assheton (who kept that end of the town) to retreat towards the end of the town; and the truth is, he had stayed so long in the work that the enemy began to break in upon them, so much so that they came to hand blows, whereby the Captain slew one man

with his skeane, and one of his soldiers thrust another through with his pike. enemy having taken the foresaid works came to the houses that lay without the chain, and fired one of them, got into some others, and shot out of them, and then fired another lone house on the back side, and then fired a third house or barn with hay in it, and at last beat our men from the house side at the mud wall end, so that they were forced to fall backward and lose ground; but it pleased God, the Captain, Lieutenant, and soldiers, so well expressed their undaunted courage that they sent them such storms of bullets into the houses as powdered them to purpose. Captain Assheton, with some sixteen musketeers, broke through a house, and shot awhile with good success, and afterwards seeing them march up madly, commanded them all to shoot at once, and to floor the enemy if possible they could, which through God's providence they did, and so beat them off that they durst not come up any more, but drew away their dead and bleeding soldiers, retired further off, and, perceiving the shouts of the country people that came in in great numbers, took what they could suddenly, and glad they could get away. * * * Our word was, 'God is my help,' and He was so indeed, for He helped us against them that else would have devoured us."

Happily there are always in this selfish world philanthropic people who cannot think of their own prosperity without also taking into pitiful consideration the miserable pittance of the poor. In many towns in England there are princely charities that are the stepping-stones by which poor persons of ability and strict integrity are enabled to pass the otherwise insurmountable difficulties that lie between them and prosperous positions in the highest callings in our land. education is provided by which those of no monetary means or social influence may attain the highest honours and dignities that are the rewards of the ablest statesmen and most princely merchants. Education, either commercial or scholastic, has been the chief means, according to the opinions of far-seeing donors, by which the road to such success could alone be travelled, and old Wigan philanthropists provided accordingly. Many English towns, as if ungrateful, by no means boast, but seem rather to be ashamed, of their local philanthropists, although there is not a town in the land that has not been benefited and is still benefited by some such friend. Wigan is not behind other places either in its number of charities or ingratitude to the donors. old parish, in the early part of the nineteenth century, when royal commissioners were appointed to inquire into such bequests, there were not less than seventy distinct In the borough proper there were 21; in Abram 4; in Aspull 3; in Billinge-Chapel-End 6; in Billinge-Higher-End 3; in Dalton 2; in Haigh 6; in Hindley 4; in Ince 4; in Orrell 3; in Pemberton 4; in Upholland 9; and in Winstanley 2. To people of the present day many of those charities seem to be

the results of wills written by deluded donors; but the social condition of the donors' day was very different from that of ours; and if their charities did seem strange, or even of lunatic aspect, that was no justification for misappropriating or abusing them, as was certainly done with many of the Wigan charities. In dealing with these charities in this history the language of these commissioners will be frequently used as sufficient to elucidate the affairs of the bequests. Their reports on the three of the oldest bequests were as follows:—

"Edmund Molyneux, citizen of London, by his will, bearing date 8th October, 1613, devised all his lands at Canewden, in Essex, which were £20 by the year, rent, to be bestowed in penny bread, and given to the ancientest and poorest people at Wigan and at Holland every Sunday throughout the year for ever, viz., at Wigan to 60 and at Holland to 30 of such poor people every Sunday, to each one penny loaf, and the remaining 10s. he gave to the churchwardens for their pains at both churches, equally to be divided, and, if the churchwardens should not perform this, his gift, according to his will, he directed that the land and the rent thereof should go to the use of a free school to be kept at Holland."

"The estate in Canewden, in Essex, has been for many years under the management of the rector and churchwardens, but it does not appear that it was ever conveyed to trustees for the uses above-mentioned."

"It consists of 53a., 2r., 33p., according to a survey taken in November, 1827, and was let to John Barrington, Esq., on lease bearing date 18th March, 1806, for 21 years, from September then last, at the yearly rent of £75, payable to the lessors, and Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman, the rector, and the churchwardens of Wigan and chapelwardens of Upholland. In 1822 it was agreed that the rent should be reduced to £65, and since the expiration of the lease the tenant has refused to pay more than £55, and a new lease at that rent was in preparation at the time of our enquiry. This is stated to be the best rent that can be obtained, as there are no buildings upon the estate, and there is consequently a difficulty in finding any other tenant wishing to take it except Mr. Barrington, who has the adjoining land."

"Of the clear rent of this estate two-thirds have been retained by the churchwardens of Wigan, and one-third has been paid to the chapelwardens of Upholland."

"The first-mentioned share has hitherto been disposed of in the purchase of bread, together with the yearly sum of £17 14s, paid by the overseers as the interest of Holt's Charity, the particulars of which will be stated hereafter under the head of the charities of Willis and others. From this fund 23s, worth of bread has been usually provided every Sunday, which, at 52 weeks in the year, would amount to £59 16s."

"This bread is made up in fourpenny loaves, and given away by the churchwardens to the poor of such parts of the parish as attend Wigan Church, according to a list made out by the churchwardens, upon the recommendation of any of the more respectable inhabitants. Whenever any extraordinary expenses are incurred, the quantity of bread is accordingly reduced."

"By indenture of feoffment, bearing date 1st June, 1632, between Robert Barrow and William Forster of the first part, and Christopher Bancks and twenty-five others, described respectively as the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses of the town of Wigan, of the second part, reciting, that Hugh Bullock, of London, deceased, had given £100 to the mayor, aldermen, &c., to be employed for the relief and benefit of the poor people, inhabitants of the said town and borough; and that Henry Mason, Rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, London, had given to the said mayor, aldermen, &c., £100 more, to be employed in the same manner; and that the said mayor, &c., had contracted with Edward and Edmund Parr for the purchase of a cottage and thirteen acres of land in Rainford, which premises had, in consideration of the sum of £200, been conveyed to the said R. Barrow and William Forster to the intent that they should settle the same upon the said mayor, aldermen, &c., for the purposes aforesaid; the said R. Barrow and W. Forster granted and enfeoffed to the said Christopher Bancks and others, parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, the premises above mentioned upon the trusts aforesaid; and the said Christopher Bancks and others covenanted to employ the same accordingly, either in binding some of the poor people apprentices, apparelling of some of them, employing or setting of them, or some of them, to work, or otherwise, as the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Wigan should think fit; and they further covenanted that the twelve surviving feoffees should, within six months after the decease of the residue, convey the premises to the use of the said survivors and of the mayor of Wigan and so many aldermen and burgesses as should in the whole make up the number of twenty-five, and their heirs; and it was provided that the said mayor and aldermen and the twelve burgesses might demise the premises for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, or three lives, in possession."

"By indenture of feoffment, bearing date 17th day of June, 1639, between William Brown and two others of the first part, and John Brighouse and two others, described respectively as mayor, recorder, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, of the other part, reciting, that the above named Henry Mason had delivered to the said mayor, aldermen, &c., £140, to be bestowed upon lands and tenements, and the profits to be employed for the relief and benefit of the poor people, inhabitants of the said town and borough; and that the said mayor, aldermen, &c., had contracted with James Molyneux for the purchase of a close called the

Banks, alias Bangges, in Wigan, containing by estimation three rood lands; and also a close called Hell Meadow, in Pemberton, for the remainder of a term of 1,000 years, which premises had, in consideration of the said sum of £140, been conveyed to the said William Brown and others, parties of the first part, as trustees, to re-grant the same to the said mayor, aldermen, &c., the said William Brown and others granted and enfeoffed to the said John Brighouse and others, their heirs, and assigns, the said close, called the Bangges; and also assigned to the said parties, their heirs, and assigns the said close, called Hell Meadow, for the residue of the said term of 1,000 years, upon the same trusts and with the same covenants as were expressed in the indenture of feoffment of 1632 above abstracted."

"In the conveyance of the above-mentioned premises to William Brown and others, bearing date 10th April, 1638, the lease of Hell Meadow is recited as bearing date 16th April, 1600, and having been granted by Humphrey Winstanley to Roger Bradshawe for the term of 1,000 years, from the day of the date."

"The freehold and leasehold premises comprised in the indentures of 1632 and 1639 have been conveyed from time to time to new trustees; and by indentures of feoffment and re-feoffment, bearing date respectively 28th August, 1826, and 2nd July, 1828. Sir Richard Clayton, John Walmesley, and Thomas Barton, as the surviving trustees of the said premises, conveyed the same to John Holt and two others, and they re-conveyed them to the said Sir Richard Clayton, Bart., the Recorder of Wigan, Henry Bullock, the Mayor, &c., and their heirs, upon the same trusts as declared in the indenture of 1632."

"The farm in Rainford is now held by Thomas Dean, or his under-tenant, under a lease, of which the following is an abstract:—

"By indenture, bearing date 4th February, 1774, between Robert Green, the then mayor, William Ollerhead, and nine others, described as burgesses of the said borough, and surviving trustees of the lands and tenements thereinafter mentioned, in trust, for the use of the poor of Wigan, of the one part, and Thomas Barker of the other part; the said trustees, in consideration of the sum of £203 demised to the said Thomas Barker, his executors, &c., a messuage or dwelling-house, with the barn, stable, shippon, and the several closes thereto belonging, situate in Rainford, called Alcock's Tenement, and containing together, by estimation, 13 acres of land, excepting the timber and minerals upon or under the said premises, to hold the same from 13th February then instant, as to the said closes of land (except the close called the Moss Hey for outlet), and from the 12th of May then next as to the residue of the said premises, for the lives of the said Thomas Barker, aged 33 years, or thereabouts; Robert Ashton the younger, the son of Robert Ashton, of Adlington, weaver, aged 8 years, or thereabouts; and James Dean, son of John Dean, of Wigan,

weaver, aged 16 years, or thereabouts, and the life of the survivor of them, at the yearly rent of £11, payable to the said lessors, their heirs, and assigns (in trust for the use and benefit of the poor inhabitants of and legally settled in Wigan) every 30th August, with covenant on the part of the lessee to keep the premises in repair, and to underwall in a workmanlike manner the south and south-east corners of the said dwelling-house, where the same was wanting, and to plant yearly during the said term, upon the said demised premises, twelve good and healthy young oak, ash, or poplar trees, or such other timber trees as would best suit the soil, and if any should die to plant others in their stead."

"The premises comprised in the lease above abstracted consist of a farm-house, with outbuildings, and 15a. 2r. of land, and are now underlet at £40 a year. We are informed that the buildings are much dilapidated, and too small for the farm; but if the sum of £50 was laid out upon them, the farm would be worth as much as £50 a year. The trustees have lately cut some timber on this estate, to the value of upwards of £80, but it is not yet determined in what manner to dispose of the money when received."

"We have not been able to ascertain for what purpose the sum of £203 (the consideration money for the lease above-mentioned) was required, or how it was applied."

"With respect to the premises comprised in the indenture of feoffment of 1639, the Hell Meadow lies partly in the township of Wigan and partly in the township of Pemberton; the part lying in Wigan, with the Bangges closes, is let to Charles Walls, as yearly tenant, at £10 per annum, and the part lying in Pemberton to Jonathan Andrews, as yearly tenant, at the like rent. We are informed that these closes might be let at advanced rents, that in their present state they are worth £25 a year, and are capable of improvement, and that the fences and an embankment against the river requires some repairs."

"John Bullock, by his will, bearing date 26th March, 1642, after devising to his daughter, Ellen Bullock, in tail, with divers remainder over, all his messuages, lands, &c., in the parishes of St. Dunstan in the East and St. Botolph's, in London, and in the town of Wigan, not thereinbefore devised, gave to the mayor, aldermen, and overseers of the poor of Wigan, and their successors, a yearly rent-charge of £5 issuing out of all the messuages, lands, &c., above-mentioned, payable quarterly, five days before each of the feasts, to be distributed immediately after the receipt thereof, by the said overseers and two of his nearest kinsmen, to the most needy, poor inhabitants, living in the said town, as they in their discretion should think fit, and a power of entry and distress was given to the said mayor, aldermen, and overseers, in case of non-payment."

"We could not obtain any further information with respect to this charity."

Bolton had been twice unsuccessfully assaulted by the forces from Wigan, and now the Boltonians, knowing that a large contingent of the Wigan army had been withdrawn to aid in the defence of Lathom House, determined to storm the great stronghold of the Royalists. To attack and take Wigan was now the highest ambition of the Boltonians, who had acquitted themselves bravely in all they had hitherto attempted. To assault the walled borough was to brave the lion in his den, and give substantial proof of their growing confidence. Every Boltonian jealously felt that whilst Wigan held her own Bolton was but an inferior rival, whereas each was determined it should be second to none. Every townsman was enthusiastic, and enthusiasm is the greatest incentive to action to protect reputation. thousand good and true foot soldiers armed with muskets, billhooks, and clubs, three hundred horse, eight pieces of cannon, and plenty of ammunition and provisions, Sir John Seaton, Major-General of the Parliamentarian forces, proceeded from Bolton to assault Wigan, when the news soon reached Lord Derby, who instantly prepared to give them a warm reception by throwing up strong entrenchments and forming a camp in the Parson's Meadows, on the banks of the Douglas.

In those stormy times the victors of to-day were often the fugitives of to-morrow. Death or victory was the determination of some; flight, in order to live to fight another day, the resolution of others. All England was astir, like a hive of bees swarming. The fires of civil war were doing their destructive work in and around Wigan, and they were to go on blazing until the darkest blot was indelibly stained on the page of English history by an Englishman of undoubted great ability, yet none the less a regicide. Fairfax was daily gaining power in the neighbourhood, and Derby was doing all he could to counteract his influence. Scarcely was breathing time given to the Wiganers. Everyone was on the alert. Watchmen and scouts were eagerly scanning and scouring the country. All was excitement without and tumult within the town. Raw levies were daily drilled and fortifications repaired. Ordinary work was at a standstill, for every hand was needed for the work of war. It was early spring, but ploughmen were in the fields for other purposes than sowing seed. Men had only time to fight for life, not to work for a living, and very hard was their fare. It was known that the Bolton men, eager for revenge, were on the march to Wigan. Then the lurid glare was seen from the beacon, and, as when busy bees are disturbed in a great hive, the sound and the labour increased. The enemy approached, and every man was called to arms by the beat of the drum. hurried into the town, within two miles of which the enemy had approached, pitched their camp to rest awhile, in order to rise refreshed for battle. The Wiganers had finished their outworks, dug their ditch, and raised fortifications of earthmounds, the remains of which are now the southern boundary of the borough. The gates of the

town were closed and guarded, the ramparts manned, the rude cannon loaded, and the struggle for victory commenced. Derby's men were driven within the battered walls of Wigan, contesting bravely every backward step. Assheton's 2,000 men were much reduced, for the engagement was a sanguinary one. The fatal shots of Derby's sharpshooters thinned the rebel ranks, who, nevertheless, were every moment gaining There were hand to hand engagements in every street, and when soldiers have once dipped their swords in human blood they seem to think of nothing else but how to shed more. The Market Place and the church are alike to them in There is no time for thinking of religion or sacrilege—the craving wish of each and all is how to have the enemy's blood. The Puritan soldiers were crowding into the Market Place—a large open space in front of the church—and what could be better than to attack them from the church tower, thought the Wigan soldiers. It appeared to eighty-six cavalier sharpshooters that the idea was a good one, and at once they hurried to the top of the church tower, from which they showered down their deadly shafts upon their hapless countrymen beneath. Yet these, too, were Englishmen, and so would not yield. They assailed the tower of the venerable building, and threatened to blow it and the sharpshooters into oblivion if they yielded not. The powder was there and the fuse was ready, but, sensibly, these brave men yielded, and the sacrilegious Puritan victors ransacked the church and destroyed the papers of its own history, as if they, too, were enemies. Just before this Derby himself had been called upon to attend the Queen on her journey from York to Oxford, and thus Assheton the more easily soon made himself master of every fortified place in Lancashire, except Lathom House, the siege of which was long and successfully maintained by the brave Countess of Derby. This storming of Wigan was on the 1st of April, 1643, and is called Assheton's invasion, as the successful attack on the town was chiefly owing to his indomitable courage and perseverance. He was one of the most daring and successful commanders of the Parliamentarians, and belonged to one of the oldest families in the hundred of Salford and Blackburn. He had glory to gain and the cause of his party to advance, although the cowardice of one of his colleagues, Colonel Holland, now nearly cost him his life. As a soldier nothing could be more creditable to him than his attack on Wigan.

In 1286 all borough towns were by Act of Parliament surrounded by walls for the protection of the inhabitants. Wigan was then a borough. The Act of 35th Henry VIII. recites that "divers and many beautiful houses of habitation had been within the walls and liberties of the towns of Lancaster, Preston, Liverpool, and Wigan, in the county of Palatine of Lancaster, which now are fallen down decayed, and at this time (1544) remain unre-edified, lying in desolate and waste places." Provision for their restoration is made by the Act; but so enraged was Assheton

at the malignancy of Wigan that he razed the ramparts to the ground and threw down the walls lest the varying fortunes of war had destined that the town should again fall into his enemy's hands. Eight hundred prisoners were captured, a thousand stand of arms and two thousand pounds of treasure, and Wigan was humiliated and defeated, but not disgraced. As a reward for his day's work Assheton received forty shillings a day over and above his pay of colonel of horse and of foot. It was one of the last places held by the Royalists in Lancashire, and yet, though defeated and occupied by the enemy, she was loyal for the most part until the successful Cromwellian party wrought havoc with the political principles of the natives. The garrulous and complaining Colonel Roseworm gives the following account of the engagement and its result:--"I was solicited, April the 1, 1643, by the deputy-lieutenant to attend and assist our forces against Wigan, for indeed the soldiers declared themselves discontented if I went not along I went accordingly, being loath that these should want any of my with them. services, who had offered me such roome in their hearts; nor were we without a happy successe in our attempt, for by a gallant assault, chiefly by Colonel Assheton's men, we took that strong town in less than an hour. Whilst the town was taken, the enemy having for a refuge observed and fitted the church and steeple adjoining for their advantage, fled thither as many as could, and killed from thence, I daresay, more men after the taking of the town than we lost in the whole assault besides. Whilest we struggled with this difficulty, an alarum was sent us from the enemy; I went speedily with some few horse to view the state they stood in. I found them only three slender troops of horse, who, observing us to present a resolute force towards them, instantly tried their heels, and gave us language enough in their disorder to tell us we need not trouble ourselves with such enemies. I returned with what haste I could, with the truth in my mouth, but found Colonel Holland in such a shaking agony of fear that he was ready to march away with all our forces, consisting of 2,000 foot, most part good musketeers; the rest club and bill men, and to my best remembrance about 200 or 300 horse, besides eight piece of ordnance, and no want either of ammunition or provision, and surely with this force I durst have seen the face of the greatest enemies we had about us, though conjoined at that time. But whilst receiving these arms, and making preparations for their convoy, Colonel Holland (for who can settle a trembling heart?) marched away with all the forces, left me with one company only (these also, fearing their inabilities to deal with so many prisoners, forsaking me) engaged among 400 prisoners. good arms, two great pieces of ordnance, in the midst of a town where generally all the townspeople were great malignants. Being thus wholly forsaken by all, I was forced first to run to find my horse, and then flie for my life, which in such a danger was most strangely saved."

As to the fatalities on the occasion of Assheton's invasion no information can be gleaned from the parish register of burials. In the months of May, June, and July there were 37, 83, and 17 burials respectively in the years 1641, 1642, and 1643. Although the mortality of that part of the year of the invasion is so high, yet the death-rate during the actual month (April) is reduced to a normal one, and, moreover, the list of 83 only contains an ordinary proportion of males without the remotest hint that they had any military connection. Many of the men who fell must have been shot actually in the churchyard, and were, no doubt, buried there, and, although they may have been buried as on an ordinary battle-field, it seems strange that no mention whatever of the interment is made, as in the Bolton and other registers on similar occasions, and much more remarkable is it when such burials as the following are so carefully recorded about the same period:—

24th May, 1641. James, son of John Dickson, a stranger. 15th May, 1642. A poor traveller, unknown. 18th September, 1643. A poore traveller.

The Gerards of Bryn took an active interest in the Royalist cause, as well as most of the Catholic families of the neighbourhood. Richard Gerard was a distinguished colonel, and courageously shared the misfortunes of his master. He himself raised and led an army of foot. After many vicissitudes of fortune he was appointed, after the Restoration, Cup Bearer to the Dowager Queen. He afterwards purchased Ince from his cousin Thomas, who died without male issue, but left a daughter, known as the heiress of Ince, who married a Gerard.

CHAPTER II.

New M.P. for Wigan—Earl of Derby at Lancaster—Lathom House—Sermon in Parish Church—Public Petition from Ormskirk to Pray for Lady Derby's Downfall—The Siege—Wigan Prayers unanswered—Colonel Rigby, M.P.—Relief of Lathom and Massacre at Bolton—Local Families and the Rebellion—Famine and Pestilence in Wigan—Scarcity of Money—Prices—Wigan Tokens—Manchester's first Member—Battle of Preston—Flight to Wigan—Confusion in Wigan—The Town Sacked—Letter of Sir James Turner—Cromwell's first Letter from Wigan—Second Letter written at Wigan by Cromwell—Behaviour of Cromwell's Troops in Wigan—Execution of the King—Proclamation at Market Place—Rigby—Work of the Long Parliament—Cromwell, Ruler—Commissions at Wigan.

WHE spirit of revolution was now thoroughly uncurbed, and the leaders themselves were amazed at the extreme policies adopted by their followers, as well as at the ungovernable speed at which they were proceeding. Agitation was doing its work, and was altogether beyond the expectation and control of the original mild agitators. Reform! Reform! had been the primary cry, but so thoroughly had Parliament and the populace been imbued with the spirit of reform, that they had now persuaded themselves that any means to obtain their ends were legitimate. The more men took part in the revolutionary agitation the more they departed from their original motives of gentle revolution, and, because their minds had become full to repletion of the thoughts of their own selfish ends, they disregarded or became blind to all legal procedure. The terribly radical changes which the Parliamentarians were constantly effecting, estranged moderate reformers who joined the royal party, but Parliament only took the more decided actions for self-protection and preservation. The House was purged of members unfavourable to Parliamentarian Radicalism, and Wigan, amongst other places, was deprived of the valuable services of its loyal member, Orlando Bridgeman.

The rector's son had been returned for the borough in 1640, eight years after he had been called to the bar of the Inner Temple. In 1642 he was expelled from the House of Commons for "assisting in the defence of Chester against the

Parliament;" but he sat in the King's Parliament at Oxford in 1644, and thus showed his contempt for the Cromwellian legislators. He remained loyal to the king, and was often active in his cause, for which, after the Restoration, he received the highest honours and promotions. He was Lord Chief Baron, and presided at the trial of the regicides. The fifth baronet was made Baron Bradford in 1794, and the second baron was created Earl of Bradford in 1815. When Orlando was expelled the House a new writ was issued, 30th December, 1645, and the Parliamentarian candidate, John Holcroft, took his seat. He was a cadet of an old Lancashire family. The following is an interesting will of one Gilbert Holcroft, of Wigan, doubtless a relative of the member for Wigan:—

I, Thomas Houlcroft, Citizen and Armorer of London, and of ye parish of Olives, in ye Borrow of Southwarke, beinge sicke in body but well in minde, doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth. Imprimis, I doe will and bequeath my spirit unto ye Lord which bought it, and my body to the earth, of which it was att firste made, to be buried in decent manner. Alsoe I doe give and bequeath to my father, Gilbert Houlcroft, of Wiggan, in ye County of Lancasheere, my best suite of apparell, with my coate and best hatt and twenty shillings in money. Alsoe I doe give my mother, Jane Houlcroft, ye sume of xxs. Alsoe I doe give my brother, Hamlett Houlcroft, ye sume of vs. Also I doe give to his sonne, my cosen, Thomas Houlcroft, ye sume of vs. Also I doe give every one of my sisters, to Anne ye like sume of five shillings; The like sume of vs. to my sister Margarett; The like sume of vs. to my sister Katherine; The like sum of vs. to my sister Ellen; The like sume of vs. to my sister Elizabeth. And I will and bequeath all the Lord hath given me in this world to my loveing wife, Elizabeth Houlcroft. To thend she may be enabled to pay the foremenconed legacies, with such debts as I doe owe to any man whatsoever, within three months next after my departure out of this life, yf thoy shalbe demanded of her. And for that end I doe againe give and bequeath to my loveinge wife, Elizabeth Houlcroft, all my worldly goods, chattels, moveables, or whatever is myne in this life. And to thend she may enjoy it I doe ordayne and appoint her to be my sole executrix, to have and enjoy it for thuse of her self and heyres forever, with peace and quietnes, she p'forming those p'ticulers before menconed according to ye true intent of this my last will and Testament Sett to my hand and seale revoking all other wills, yf any such should happen to be p'tended to be made by me att or in any place whatever. Wittness my hand this sixt day of April, 1647, in ye yeare of our Soveraigne Lord the King, &c. Thomas Houldroft. Witness. William Prudden, the marke of Christopher Gye. Proved at London, 19 June, 1647, by Elizabeth Houlcroft, the relict and Executrix.

(Prerogative Court, Canterbury, No. 119 Fines.)

The Parliamentarians were carrying everything before them, and consequently half-hearted and undecided persons espoused their principles, and became clamorous in their cause. Their originally raw levies had become veterans in the field, and the stern discipline of the leaders maintained uniformity of action in the ranks. Every town and fortified place, except Lathom House, had yielded. Greenhalgh Castle, built by Thomas, Earl of Derby, had also withstood a protracted siege, and finally yielded to Cromwell's forces, who destroyed it all except the tower, which still remains to mark the site of the castle and commemorate its siege. The hopes of the Cromwellians rose high, but the Royalists, impressed with a knowledge of

right on their side, determined to make another struggle to regain lost ground. The Parliamentarians, masters of exaggeration, held up every action of Derby's as a bloodthirsty massacre, whilst all their own were tempered by leniency and godliness. It was so at the siege of Lancaster, to the gates of which Lord Derby had marched with 4,000 troops, and there demanded a surrender, which was resolutely refused. The unexpected attack commenced, the enemy defeated and routed, and the Puritans declared that the enemy had entered the town and killed men, women, and children with barbarous cruelty, dragged poor people from their houses and cut their throats with butchers' knives, fired the town, and then departed for Preston, highly satisfied with their bloodthirsty victory. Lord Derby's letter gives a somewhat more humane description of the attack and its result, which flushed his hopes. He says:—

When I came before the town [Lancaster] I summoned it, in his Majesty's name, and the Mayor, as I heard, counselled by the commanders for the Parliament, made me so slight an answer, after I expected it for a whole day, that I, enraged to see their sauciness against so good a king, made bold to burn the greater part of the town, and in it many of their soldiers, who defended it very sharply for two hours. But we beat them into the castle, and I, seeing the town clear from all smoke, spared the remainder of the town, and laid siege unto the castle. There was no woman or child suffered, or any but those who did bear arms, for so I gave directions to my soldiers, except some three or four that I think as likely to be killed by them.—Extract from a Letter by the Earl of Derby in Memoirs of Prince Rupert and the Cavaliers.

The siege of Lathom House, which had a formidable position in the midst of a boggy flat, surrounded by a wall six feet thick, strengthened by nine towers, each of which had six pieces of ordnance, the whole surrounded by a moat twenty feet broad, was now (1644) not only the talk of Wigan and county, but of the whole country. Lord Derby was in the Isle of Man. Lady Derby refused to listen to the terms of Sir Thomas Fairfax, treated with disdain and contempt the compromising conditions of his deputy officers, and shut herself up in her strongly fortified house. Within the fortifications there were six regiments, each headed by a volunteer county gentleman as captain. The captains were Ogle, Chisenhall, Molyneux, Farrington, Rawstorne, and Charnock. The commander of all, under the Countess, was Major Farmes, a Scotchman. Every Wiganer talked of the French Countess of Derby-some with admiration, others with contempt, all with concern. Even clergymen, who were always fond of a little harmless gossip, talked eagerly of her condition and prospects. They, too, took decided opinions for or against her, many of them as they judged would be best for their temporal good. It is on record that one holy Puritan, a clergyman, of Wigan, the Parliamentarian rector, Bradshaw by name, wrote two sermons against this noble lady, hoping thereby that his efforts for the Church and Parliament might be reported at head-quarters to his benefit. His ecclesiastic position was dependent on the satisfaction which he gave to his patrons, and, consequently, his advice was only a conscientious one when he was

assured it would be acceptable to them. Parliament and Parliamentarians were to him far above his own conscience or judgment, for he knew that by disobeying them he was doing a wrong which, unlike many moral wrongs, brought its immediate material downfall. Bradshaw may have been a very conscientious man, but, if so, his conscience must first have been subordinated to a habit ungoverned by temperate or logical reasoning. He did not consider himself the tool of the Parliamentarians; but he certainly acknowledged he was their servant, and so placed himself and zeal at their disposal. His first politically remarkable sermon was actually delivered, let us hope to a more than usually gullible audience, in the Parish Church of Wigan, during the siege, from the text in Jeremiah: "Put yourselves in array against Babylon (Lady Derby) round about: all ye that bend the bow shoot at her: spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the Lord." As Lady Derby was too much for her besiegers, this unmanly Ranter was never called upon to deliver his (to him) invaluable composition on: "Shoot against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen: her walls are thrown down." The siege was the talk of the country and the disgrace of the Puritans, who held special prayer meetings to invoke divine help for the destruction of this noble lady. Even her very neighbours at Ormskirk issued the following petition:-To all Ministers and Parsons in Lancashire, well-wishers to our success against Lathom House, theise,

Forasmuch as more than ordinary obstructions have from the beginning of this present service agaynst Lathom House interposed our proceedings, and yet still remaine, which cannot otherwise be removed, nor our success furthered, but onely by devine assistance: it is therefore our desires to the ministers and other well-affected persons of this county of Lancaster, in publike manner, as they shall please, to commend our case to God, that as wee are appoynted to the said imployment, soe much tending to the settleing of our present peace in theise parts, soe the Almighty would crowne our weake endeavours with speedy successe in the said designe.

RALPH ASHTON.

Ormskirk, April 5th, 1644.

JOHN MOOR.

How very differently were people affected towards this brave lady. In Wigan, Ormskirk, and indeed all Lancashire, there were those who admired and those who defamed. Everyone believed the siege to be a hopeless one, for, if the strong walls were not battered down, her few brave men destroyed, nor the house fired, it was believed the enemy would lie there till starvation drove out the devoted band into the relentless power of the "inveterate rebel, Rigby." Some said the lady's followers were fools, others, that they were brave men and true. There were proud saints who prayed for her destruction, and humble sinners who wished for success. Such is the law or custom of human nature, that the losing cause soon loses its champions. Hope of relief daily grew less, and her enemies and detractors grew more.

"The cry is, 'Still they come;' our castle's strength Will laugh a siege to scorn. Here let them lie Till famine and the ague eat them up. Were they not forced with those that should be ours, We might have met them dareful, beard to beard, And beat them backward home."

Without and within there was still much praying—some for destruction, some for All prayers, in faith, went to the same throne. She, the commander of one hundred devoted men, retired into the solitude of her chamber, in her own housethe abode of her guileless children, and, on her bended knees, with weeping eyes, earnestly sought help against the oppressing foe. "Good, Christian," men and women without beheld or bewailed her success. They were grieved to think that more than ordinary obstruction successfully stopped the destructive career of the assailants, who had tried everything and failed; yea, had confessed their failure. They had prayed for power to destroy, and publicly confessed their prayers were unavailing, and in their agony, like the old worshippers of Baal, in bitter chagrin, they cried more earnestly that they, the offenders, might be able to destroy the inoffensive. but haughty, lady—the lady of Babylon. They called her by foul names in their prayers, yet vengeance came not. There were no signs of success. They be sought the parsons, ministers, and well-wishers of Lancashire to meet publicly, and, on bended knee, with simultaneous voice, to call down vengeance. In Wigan, as elsewhere, prayers were again raised; but the walls fell not, although many, in their simple faith, had gone out to see the result. Even at the sounding of the trumpet the walls were not-Jericho-like-levelled with the ground; but, on the contrary, Lady Derby succeeded in stealing their great gun, much to their discomfiture. were sustained, the strong, hard-hearted ministers, parsons, and well-wishers were discomfited, and the Wigan prayerful visitors went home with their prayers unanswered.

Fairfax besieged her from January to March, 1644, with no little loss and much chagrin, and was then replaced by Alexander Rigby, M.P. for Wigan, with as little success and more disgrace. Wigan, as the stronghold of the Cavaliers, played a very important part in the history of the Great Rebellion. It nursed a deadly enmity against Puritan Manchester. When other boroughs passed over to the victorious Roundheads, Wigan only grew the more defiant, and assisted in every possible way to further the interests of royalty, whose growing and darkening difficulties only increased the fury of its burning zeal. So loyally stubborn was it that it now acquired the distinguished title of "malignant Wigan." Any borough in Lancashire was capable of returning a Puritan member except itself, until the daring, energetic lawyer, statesman, magistrate, and colonel, Rigby, knowing that without some extraordinary effort it would be lost to his party, gave over the work of representing Preston to another Puritan, and, by unwearied activity, gained the interests of the Wigan voters, and represented them in the Long Parliament, from 1640, in spite of the great political influence of the Bradshaighs of Haigh, and the Catholic gentry, although he neither forgave nor forgot the malignancy of his opponent constituents. He was a Parliamentarian in His earnest, one-sided, and bigoted energy deserved the esteem of heart and soul.

even his enemies, for hypocrisy, the most despicable unmanliness in man, was not a part of his character, whatever his faults were. He had espoused the cause of the rebel party and openly avowed his opinions, when, as yet, there was little or no hope of success, and great likelihood of losing all his property, which was staked on the actions proceeding from his conscientious convictions. It is true that, like most of the others, he was at first but an advanced Liberal, and, like others, only gradually became a red-hot republican by the force of circumstances. There was no more active zealot in the field or Senate-house than he. In body and mind he was as nearly ubiquitous as possible. The most active Englishman of his age, he was engaged on almost every Parliamentary Committee, and often visited his constituency. He commanded at the siege of Lathom House, fought at Furness, was at the capture of Thurland Castle, and took part in the defence of Bolton, and was one of the Judges, yet nobody loved him. To this zealous Puritan, active man, and subtle reasoner Wigan yielded, for in every great struggle there are people who will neither declare themselves to be of one side nor another until they know which is likely to be victor, and thus many of the wavering constituents of Wigan joined themselves to the now victorious Roundheads, and thus the half-hearted majority, caring less for the honour of themselves and their town than for the safety of their lives and effects, returned a Puritan member, who, with all his godly zeal, was unmanly enough to contrive a scheme and bargain by which the Royalist masters of three Cambridge colleges were to be sold to the Algerines. Such was the man who was outwitted and overmatched by Lady Derby at Lathom House.

Lord Derby's house had always been famous for magnificence and hospitality. He was an excellent landlord, and yet many of his tenantry stood aloof in the hour of trouble. A braver woman, more devoted wife or better mother than his lady, never came from France to England; yet she was disliked by many, simply because she was French. Yet it would seem that those of her neighbours who would not fight for her condescended to watch and send her intelligence, for signal fires could neither be lighted on Ashurst nor Parbold beacons, as they were in the possession of the rebels. The rebels, under Rigby, knew well she could only be taken by surprise, and so marched their armies as far as Wigan, Standish, and Bolton, under the pretence that they had been ordered to Westmoreland. But neither stratagem, assault, nor compromise was sufficient to cause Lady Derby to give up Lathom House. The besiegers were afraid to approach nearer than four or five miles, because of the daring sallies made on them. They were discontented, and they mutinied and deserted, because their pay was in arrear. Disheartening news had come of the success of the Royalists at Bradford, the besieged in Lathom were strong, and the whole neighbourhood favoured them at last with their sympathies and made them acquainted with the news of the day. Colonel Egerton,

in command of the besieging forces, in the absence of Rigby, wrote pitiful appeals to Parliament. Special committees in Manchester prayed for supplies of ammunition, men, and money, whilst sadly deploring the ruined state of the county. The Papist army of Lathom was the dread of the land, although the oldest and best soldiers were besieging it, for it was considered useless to send raw recruits against such a "strong and violent garrison;" moreover, the neighbourhood of Wigan was swarming with malignants, and the county was bankrupt and begging from other counties.—(For Three years of civil war had full particulars see Civil War Tracts on the siege). drained the county of labourers, and the fields were left untilled, or where seed perchance had been sown no one was left to garner in the crops. Every man had become a soldier, and was either in active service or waiting and praying for an opportunity to fight, either on the one side or the other. The soldiers had to be provided for before the women and children, and want and famine were already beginning to work dire calamity. The district was groaning under insupportable taxes: the usual government taxes, local taxes for carrying on the county war, an Irish tax, and £800 a month to pay the mercenary Scots. The county exchequer was drained, and local members of Parliament and Cromwellians of influence were holding special meetings to draw up petitions to present to the House of Commons for supplies and release from taxes they were unable to gather, for even the formerly rich were impoverished. Estates from the malignants and Royalists were greedily confiscated, their cattle and crops devoured, and their ruined demesnes glutting the market till there were more cheap estates than able buyers at the ridiculously low prices, for they were not even worth the taxes levied on them. The brave lady of Lathom still held out. The Parliamentary forces of 1,000 foot and 400 horse were divided into several parts, and quartered around, until her husband, on his return from the Isle of Man, came with reinforcements, defeated the besiegers and drove them, with great disgrace and slaughter, through Wigan to Bolton, when a terrible revenge was taken by Derby, in what was exaggerated as the Bolton massacre, on the 28th May, 1644. In December of the following year Lathom House was given up at the express command of the king, whilst Derby and his Countess were in Rushen Castle, Castletown, Isle of Man, which was then the Earl's own property.

In 1647 Thomas Markland was mayor. The aldermen were Thomas Stanley, Bart., Radus Standish, Robtus Mawdesley, Josephus Rigbie, Chrophrus Bancks, Willus fforth, Willus Pilkington, Jacobus Molyneux, Georgius Rudall, Laurencicus fford, Jacobus Scott, Michus Pennington, Ambrosius Jollie, and Willus Brown. The bailiffs were Willus Tempest and Edrus Ormeshawe.

The terrible effects of war are never confined to the field of battle. Comrades not only fall, but families are left destitute. Commerce and trade are interrupted

However great and glorious the victory of war, its ravages and often ruined. ruthlessly reach the hearths and homes of the poor. The king himself and his nobles were beggars, so what could his poor followers be? All the able-bodied Wigan men had become soldiers, and their wives were left to provide for themselves and their little ones. Trade was at a standstill. Many of the wealthier merchants and artificers of the town had given all they had for the support of their party. The Bradshaighs of Haigh, themselves, had taken no active part in the war, although many of their relatives were Parliamentarians, and many of their tenantry had fought and fallen in the Royalist cause. The Catholics of Wigan—a numerous body—were peaceably inclined and loyal, yet were driven by circumstances which governed their personal interests to take up arms for the king. The old Catholic families of the neighbourhood—the Gerards of Bryn, Blundells of Crosby, Blundells of Ince, Norrises of Speke, Scarisbricks of Scarisbrick, Molineux of Sefton, Harringtons, and Fazakerleysactively took the part of their king, and the Ffaringtons of Worden, though opposed to the illegal principles and arbitrary acts of their sovereign, adhered steadily to his cause in many a fatal field. In town and country there was nothing but preparation Fathers and sons had left those dependent on them with no other comfort but hope. Whole families had neither food, fire, nor clothing, and so pestilence and famine were added to the ordinary horrors of war. Houses in Wigan were desolate; swarms of beggars were in every street and at every country house. Many who had been brought up in comfort or luxury were themselves reduced to poverty. Because of their finer tastes, bashfulness, or opinions of the ignobleness of beggary, many of them shut themselves up in their comfortless rooms, and there remained until death The doors of formerly released their wearied souls from their emaciated bodies. hospitable houses were closed, and the inmates themselves gone begging for bread. Anything that was eatable was welcome, even carrion. There was little food in the town, and no money to buy it, nor men to take it by force. Collections were made in the Parish Church and in the Catholic chapels, but the relief they afforded was barely felt. So bad had the condition of the inhabitants of Wigan become that even Parliament, so busied in questions of war, ordered an inquiry to be made. condition of Wigan may be best known from a memorial of the time, entitled "A True Representation of the present sad and lamentable Condition of the County of Lancaster, and particularly of Wigan and Ashton." Verified by Hyet, Ambrose, and Tilsley, local ministers of the Gospel:-

"The hand of God is evidently seen stretched out upon the county, chastening it with a three-corded scourge of sword, pestilence, and famine, all at once afflicting it. They have borne the heat and burden of a first and second war in an especial manner above other parts of the nation. Through them the two great bodies of the late Scottish and English armies passed, and in their very bowels was that great fighting, bloodshed, and breaking. In this county hath the plague of pestilence been raging these

three years and upwards, occasioned chiefly by the wars. There is a very great scarcity of all provisions, especially of all sorts of grain, particularly that kind by which that country is most sustained, which is full six-fold the price that of late it hath been. All trade, by which they have been much supported, is utterly decayed; it would melt any good heart to see the numerous swarms of begging poor, and the many families that pine away at home, not having faces to beg; very many now craving alms at other men's doors, who were used to give others alms at their doors—to see paleness, nay death, appear in the cheeks of the poor, and often to hear of some found dead in their houses, or highways, for want of bread."

This statement was also signed by the Rev. James Bradshaw, the Presbyterian Rector of Wigan, and the mayor and bailiffs. Parliament was acquainted with the dire local calamity, and a public collection was made throughout the country on Thursday, 7th September, being the day appointed for solemn thanksgiving for Cromwell's recent decisive victory.

Competition is the life of trade, but Wiganers of the seventeenth century (the principles of political economy being misunderstood) considered it to be a certain destructive of all mercantile transactions. Before free trade gave all the world the opportunity of becoming competitors in the English markets, home producers had a monopoly in the home markets of what could be more cheaply produced abroad. Farmers and merchants, without competition, could make their own prices. A heavy shower of rain before the golden crops were cut meant an increase on the poor man's loaf, and an inopportune shower before the seed was sown had a similar effect. At this period of our history there was a great demand for oats, of which there was great scarcity, and the farmers again seized the opportunity of raising their prices, and yet farmers then, as now, were proverbial for grumbling. It would seem they have got into such a habit from merely at first pretending to grumble. Famine succeeded the pestilence in Wigan, and the monopolising grain merchants did their utmost to make capital out of the emergency. The relief society was a tardy one and ill-administered. Oats were sold at four pounds a bushel, wheat fifty-three shillings and fourpence a bushel, beans forty-eight shillings the bushel, barley forty shillings and upwards. How could the poor live when a bushel of the national food cost half a year's wages? The price of common field beans made even them luxuries that the poor could not afford. Many for days had nothing but a pitcher of water with a handful of meal or barley in it. Even many of the formerly rich were so reduced as to look gladly upon their former necessities as luxuries.

Large fortunes have been made in Wigan by far-seeing, cautious speculators, and in it there are at this day more ready-money transactions than in any other town of equal size in England. The individual transactions are small, but the aggregate sum, made up by the numerous purchasers from the neighbouring townships, whose inhabitants come weekly or bi-weekly for their stores, in very great numbers is large. Ready-money customers are always welcome to the merchants,

who keenly compete for quick returns by accepting small profits. Thus there is generally plenty of petty cash in hand, but it was not always so. During the troublous times of the Great Rebellion very little money was coined, what was in the market became scarce, and, as is always the case in bad times, money transactions were made on a small scale. Silver pieces were curiosities in the hands of the poor, and copper coins (a very few of which was all they got for their labour), being the only representatives of their marketings, were scarce. It might be said that for ordinary mercantile purposes there was no silver and very little copper. People could not purchase large quantities of commodities because they could not afford, and tradesmen could not sell small quantities because they could give no change. Thus neither wealth nor the necessaries of life could be distributed because of the scarcity of money, the representative of wealth. There was a special scarcity of small coins, which were alone suited to the condition of the poor, who were, and are, always the most numerous ready-money retail purchasers, and so business in Wigan was like to come to a standstill until necessity, the mother of invention, devised a sort of compromise between the seller and consumer, which compelled the latter to be dependent on the good faith of the former. Then, as now, it was a recognised fact that there can be no business transactions without confidence. Tradesmen, doing a good business, and trusted by their customers, did what the Government should have done, issued Not only tradesmen, but corporations, capitalists, and gentlemen throughout the country struck for themselves coins which they called tokens. They were simply the representatives of pledges that their owners would pay on demand, or rather give goods in exchange for, their value. These tokens were only for pence, halfpence, and farthings, and were profitable to tradesmen, as each tradesman Of course, this barter system gave rise to would only accept his own tokens. many evils, and especially to the truck-system, only recently forbidden by Act of Parliament. In Wigan these coins were of divers shapes, generally round, although some were even octagonal. Sometimes on one side they had the issuer's name, with his and his wife's initials, so that if the husband died the wife was still pledged to return their equivalent. If the owner had a coat of arms, it was stamped on the On the other side was the name Wigan and the value of the coin. Their issue was an opportunity not to be lost by utterers of base coin. evils of this home-made coin system were so great and widespread and well-known that in the reign of Charles II. silver pennies and twopences were issued, with the express intent of stopping both the evils and the tokens, but business by their medium was lucrative, and tradesmen gave increased enticements to customers to use their tokens. In 1672, however, an Act was passed forbidding the further use of tokens upon pains and penalties.

Banks, of Winstanley Hall, issued tokens in 1652, with the name Gerard Banks on the obverse side, and his arms, a fleur-de-lis, in each quarter, whilst on the reverse side was stamped In Wigan. 1652, and in the centre three escalop shells. Another coin is stamped on the obverse Gilbert Barrow. Of—then the Apothecaries' Arms in the centre, and on the reverse side—Wigan. His Half Peny, and in the centre G. E. B. 1669. The E in the centre is the initial of Mrs. Barrow. Other Wigan specimens are—Thomas Cooper, in the centre Cooper family crest, obverse—Of Wigan. 1666, in the centre His Half Peny, reverse; William Laithwaite, in centre the Armourers' Arms, obverse—In Wigan. His Half Peny. 1668 (octagonal coin), reverse; Matthew Markland, Markland family arms in centre, obverse—In Wiggon. 1664. M. G. M. (centre), reverse; Matthew Markland. 1666. Markland arms, obverse—Of Wigan. His Half Peny, reverse; Robert Winstanley, dove with olive branch (centre), obverse—Of Wigan. 1652, in centre R. J. W., reverse.

The tokens issued throughout the country at this period were of various sizes, some being as large as the half-crown of the present day, others as small as the modern fourpenny-piece. The few specimens of the Wigan halfpenny still preserved as curiosities are of good copper, and are about the size of a modern sixpence, but specimens of the Wigan penny are about the size of our halfpenny.

The Puritans fought for freedom, but then Government had to be sustained. Freedom degenerated to a confiscating legal licence, by which many suffered in Wigan. Little property and money were left in the possession of persons suspected of loyalty. Heavy taxes were levied, and if any man had money or property he was sure to be suspected, and his goods confiscated to the Commonwealth, that, like the horse-leech, could never have enough. Royalists, who retired from the struggle, were reduced to beggary, and the properties of exiles were given or sold to successful rebels. Commissioners were virtually appointed to find out and confiscate properties and valuable livings. Wigan was at this time under the power of the local governor, Major-General Charles Worsley, of the Platt, who had first distinguished himself at Manchester, the chief of Puritan towns. The enthusiastic preaching of the Rev. John Wigan, Independent parson, of the blood and fire type, was the means of converting Charles, son of a wealthy Manchester haberdasher, although the younger son of an ancient and distinguished From the day of his conversion Mr. Worsley became a zealot in the Parliamentarian cause, took up arms against his duly anointed king, and, forthwith became a dear friend of Cromwell. Success after success, and earnest devotion to the game of revolution, gained for him the unlimited confidence of his great, but stern leader; and among other dubious honours he was chosen, with Harrison, to put out by "physical force" the Speaker of the Rump, and Algernon Sydney, who sat next

He also carried away to his own house the mace, or "bauble," as Cromwell was pleased to call it. The Parliamentarians had felt it their duty to disfranchise many small boroughs, presumably because of their insignificance when compared with unrepresented large boroughs and counties, but really because of their loyalty. Although Wigan had been the very head-centre of Royalists, it was too important a town for even them to think of disfranchising, although they disabled one of the members, Orlando Bridgeman, from sitting in the Long Parliament. Of all places, of course, faithful Manchester was the first to be considered in the redistribution, and Charles Worsley, of the Platt, Esquire, for his faithfulness in the destruction of the monarchy, was appointed its first M.P. As Major-General or Viceroy of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, he ruled with a rod of iron, as became a Calvinistic Puritan, compelling the people "quietly" to pay an income tax of ten per cent., and taking security from disaffected persons—all who had property were suspiciously watched, and considered disaffected. Finding he could not send money enough to the Exchequer of the Cromwellian Parliament, he proposed to tax all with an income of £50, "for," says he, "if your Highness shall please but to order us to descend to estates of fifty pounds per annum in lands, and one hundred pounds in personal estate, we shall raise much more than else we can; for in those counties one hundred pounds per annum is a considerable estate, and many that justly deserved to fall under the tax (Royalists) might be fetched in at fifty pounds per annum, whose estates reach not one hundred."

In 1648 such events as historians relate as marking special eras in a country's annals were being vigorously enacted in the neighbourhood of Wigan. Every day was adding a new and important page to the narratives of English struggles for constitutional liberty. In the month of August there were 30,000 troops in the county, the Royalists being nearly three to one of the Parliamentarians. The former had determined to fight their way, under the Duke of Hamilton, from Preston to London, and the stakes won by the Parliamentarians during the past eight years would be lost if they succeeded. Cromwell, through his couriers and spies, knew every move and intention of the enemy. By quick decision, a special trait in a general, which he possessed in a high degree, he determined to give battle at once before the enemy's troops were all combined. Immediately he had determined to fight, the whole army became a machine in his hand, and yet every individual unit in that machine a fellow-man acting under impulsive enthusiasm. With a glance at the surrounding country, and his previous knowledge of it, he made his plan and placed the different parts of his forces in their places of advantage, some in valleys, some on hills, and some in enclosed fields, as unconcernedly as a chessman places his knights and pawns. The terrible game was about to be played near Preston. Skirmishers—the pawns of the play were sent out to parley with the foe till the knights and the castles were more

advantageously placed. The opposing generals read each other's minds in the movements of the men, and encountered or counteracted them accordingly. length all was ready. Messages were signalled, and couriers galloped from general to officer, who instantly acted as commanded. In the low-lying ground, in enclosed fields, stood Cromwell's horse, their hoofs sunk in the miry ground: his foot were lining the lanes and slopes: the intrepid enemy, confident of success, in vast numbers poured out of Preston, which was then but poorly fortified; their scouts were bravely attacked, and driven back to the main body: the well-disciplined assailants, confident of their leader and the justice of their cause, moved stolidly on, and met their outnumbering foes, who were determined to fight for God and their The flint-locks were fired, the booming sound of the field-guns resounded, and both the armies were hidden in smoke. The ranks were thinned, but there was neither giving nor gaining of ground. Mixed now with the war-cry was the moaning of the dead. The horsemen boldly essayed to break the serried ranks, but The impetuous excitement grew fiercer and fiercer, the voice of the commander was unheard in the noise, order and discipline forgotten, every man for himself eager to slay, and yet, with one combined impetuous charge, horse and foot commingling, hand to hand and man to man, they rushed at each other, like beasts of prey, until the Royalists wavered, looked behind, and rushed by the lanes back towards the town, or away over the fields, followed by the now infuriated Cromwellians, who thus won the field, after four hours' desperate fighting. Royalists rallied in the town, but Cromwell was too great a general not to take immediate advantage of his enemy's discomfiture He closely followed at their heels, and entered Preston with four of his own regiments, followed by others. Here the struggle and carnage were renewed, but the Royalists were too utterly beaten and dispirited to rally heartily long, and so those who were not killed or taken prisoners were scoured from the streets away into the fields. The Duke of Hamilton retreated over the Hodder Bridge with his horse and foot, who were there fiercely attacked by Fairfax, and beaten, chased, captured, or killed. fugitives were chased for ten miles towards Lancaster, and were nearly all captured Royalists were lurking in secret places in houses, in hedges, in woods, and on hills all over the district, like hunted and wounded game. Thus was the The victor thanked Heaven for the sanguinary success, victory at Preston won. and then the darkness of the longed-for night enveloped alike the fugitive and the pursuer, the dying and the dead, the vanquisher and the vanquished. Ammunition and arms of great store and four thousand prisoners fell into the conqueror's hands, and one thousand of the enemy were slain.

The momentous and critical battle of Preston had been lost. The main body of

remaining horse and foot of the Royalists were hurrying in disorder to Wigan by the road and byeways, and even where there were no ways. The vanguard and rearguard lost each other: men and leaders seemed demented. Many fled where none pursued. The weather was foul and the roads bad. One-half the faint and weary ones lagged behind, and were cut down by the infuriated pursuers. On the evening of that unlucky Friday, after the tolling of the Curfew, these distracted horsemen and pikemen entered Wigan by the Standishgate. The enemy had followed in hot pursuit, but deeming it unadvisable to enter the town they, weary and dirty, lay down to rest in the fields in the neighbourhood between Standish and Boar's The Royalists, however, were still in great dismay, for they imagined themselves pursued within the very walls of Wigan. Some skirmishing took place near Wigan between the loitering or stubborn Royalists and Cromwell's party, when a hundred prisoners were taken, and a general (Druske) and a colonel (Thornhaugh) Meanwhile things were come to a sad state in the town. The Royalist pikemen and bludgeon bearers were drawn up in the Market Place. A false rumour arose that the enemy were at their heels, and immediately horsemen and footmen were in dreadful confusion. The pikemen charged their own leader, Sir James Turner. There was a stampede of horsemen, who galloped over the footmen in their eagerness to escape towards Warrington; the pikemen, in utter despair, cast away their pikes, regardless of consequences, and, as if possessed by fiends, sacked every house and plundered wherever they had hopes of gain. Every soldier was unmanned and disgraced by his own actions. To rally them was an impossibility, so completely had fear and recklessness taken possession of them. Sir James Turner, the commander of the last brigade, has left the following account of affairs during this evening:-"As I marched with the last brigade of foot through the town of Wigan I was alarmed that our horse behind me were beaten and running several ways, and that the enemy was in my rear. I faced about with that brigade, and in the Market Place serried the pikes together, shoulder to shoulder, to entertain any that might charge, and sent orders to the rest of the brigades before to continue their march. and follow Lieutenant-General Baillie, who was before them. It was then night, but the moon shone bright. A regiment of our own appeared first, riding very I got them to stop till I commanded my pikes to open and give way for them to ride or run away, since they would not stay. But now my pikemen, being demented (as I think we were all) would not hear me, and two of them ran full tilt at me. One of their pikes, which was intended for my belly, I griped with my left hand; the other ran me nearly two inches into the inner side of my right thigh; all of them crying, of me and those horse, 'They are Cromwell's men!' This was an unseasonable wound, for it made, after that night, me unserviceable. This

made me forget all rules of modesty, prudence, and discretion—my choler being up, and my blood flowing! I rode to the horse, and desired them to charge through these foot. They fearing the hazard of the pikes, stood. I then made a cry come from behind them that the enemy was upon them. This encouraged them to charge my foot, so fiercely that the pikemen threw down their pikes, and got into houses. All the horse galloped away, and, as I was told afterwards, rode not through but over our whole foot, treading them down." Such was the confused and desperate state of affairs on the streets of Wigan on that otherwise quiet summer night (18th August, 1648).

Now was England in deep tribulation. Her children had risen up, defied, defeated, and taken prisoner her king in 1648; her strongholds were in the hands of her rebellious sons, and her sacred places occupied by ranting clergymen, who declared they were not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, although that Gospel might well have been ashamed of many of them. The Roundheads were masters of the situation, although they still guarded with drawn sword what the sword had apparently won. They had played a deep game, but there was yet an odd chance of their losing, and so they struck terror into the timid, exacted homage from the discontented and suspected, flattered, and made great promises to their faithful adherents, and withal daringly called down the blessings of the Deity upon their blood-stained labours. It was after scattering the wearied and dispirited fugitive Royalists in Lancashire that Cromwell wrote the following letter to the committee at York, from Wigan:—

"Wigan, 23rd August, 1648.

Gentlemen,—I have intelligence even now come to my hands, that Duke Hamilton, with a wearied body of Horse, is drawing towards Pontefract, where probably he may lodge himself and rest his Horse; as not daring to continue in those countries whence we have driven: the country-people rising in such numbers, and stopping his passage at every bridge.

Major-General Lambert, with a very considerable force, pursues him at the heels. I desire you that you would get together what force you can, to put a stop to any further designs they may have and so be ready to join with Major-General Lambert, if there shall be need. I am marching northward with the greatest part of the army, where I shall be glad to hear from you. I rest.

Your affectionate friend and servant,

OLIVER CROMWELL."

Cromwell, in another letters, says:—"At last the enemy drew up within three miles of Wigan; and by that time our army was come up, they drew off again, and recovered Wigan before we could attempt anything upon them. We lay that night in the field close by the enemy: being very dirty and weary, and having marched twelve miles of such ground as I never rode in all my life, the day being very wet. We had some skirmishing that night with the enemy, near the town; where we took General Van Druske and a Colonel, and killed some principal officers, and took a hundred prisoners; where I also received a letter from Duke Hamilton, for a civil usage

towards his kinsman, Colonel Hamilton, whom he left wounded there. We took also Colonel Hurry and Lieutenant-Colonel Innes, sometime in your service. The next morning the enemy marched towards Warrington, and we at the heels of them. The town of Wigan, a great and poor town, and very malignant, were plundered almost to their skins by them."

From this short letter is known the general state of the Royalists all over the country; but the same pen, at the same table in Wigan, well describes the sad plight of his own followers immediately after the battle of Preston. Poor England! to what a sad state a foolish, headstrong king and an infatuated Puritan had brought you. But thus it is in every civil war, the great do wrong and the poor suffer; one man sins and a whole country suffers. The poor king is a prisoner, hearths and homes are desolate; the fields are left untilled; the bread-winners are targets for the guns of their fellow-countrymen on the battle-field, while the children weep at home because they have nothing to eat; every man's hand is raised against his fellow, and the victor thanks God for giving him power to bring his native land to such a pass. That Wigan letter of Cromwell's is as follows:—

"To the Right Honourable the Committee of Lords and Commons at Derby House: These. Haste,

Wigan, 23rd August, 1648.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I did not (being straightened with time) send you an account of the great blessing of God upon your army. I trust it is satisfactory to your Lordships that the House had it so fully presented to them.

My Lords, it cannot be imagined that so great a business as this could be without some loss; although I 'confess' very little compared with the weightiness of the engagement, there being on our part not an hundred slain, yet many wounded. And to our little it is a real weakening, for indeed we are but a handful. I submit to your Lordships, whether you will think fit or no to recruit our loss, we having but five poor regiments of foot, and our horse so exceedingly battered as I never saw them in all my life. It is not to be doubted but your enemy's designs are deep. This blow will make them very angry: the principles they went on were such as should a little awaken Englishmen; for I have heard it from very good hands of their own party, that the Duke made this the argument to his army, that the lands of the country, and [illegible the next line or two, from the ruin of the paper; the words lost mean clearly, "That the Scots were to share our lands among them, and come to inhabit the conquered country." A very high figure of rumour indeed!] which is done in part, there being a transplantation of many women and children and of whole families in Westmoreland and Cumberland, as I am credibly informed (for the moment). Much more might be said; but I forbear. I offer it to your Lordships that money may be sent to pay the foot and horse to some equality. Some of those that are here, seventy days before I marched from Windsor into Wales, have not had any pay; and amongst the horse, my own regiment, and some others are much behind. I wish your Lordships may mangage it for the best advantage, and not be wanting to yourselves in what is necessary, which is the end of my offering these things to you. My Lords, money is not for contingencies so as were to be wished; we have very many things to do which might be better done if we had wherewithal. Our foot want clothes, shoes, and stockings; these ways and weather have shattered them all to pieces. That which was the great blow to our House was (besides the weather and incessant marches) our

march, ten miles, to fight with the enemy, and a fight continuing four hours in as dirty a place as ever I saw horse stand in, and upon the matter the continuance of this fight two days more together in our following the enemy, and lying close by him in the mire [moths again and mildew] until at length we broke him at a near a great party of our horse having miles towards Lancaster, who came up to us, and were with us in all the action. These things I thought fit to intimate, not knowing what is fit to ask, because I know not how your affairs stand nor what you can supply.

I have sent Major-General Lambert, upon the day I received the enclosed, with two thousand horse and dragoons and about fourteen thousand foot in prosecution of the Duke, and the nobility of Scotland with him, who will, I doubt not, have the blessing of God with him in the business. But indeed his horse are exceeding weak and weary. I have sent to Yorkshire and to my Lord Grey to alarm all parts to a prosecution, and if they be not wanting to the work I see not how many can escape. I am marched myself back to Preston, and so on towards Monro or otherwise, as God shall direct.

As things fall out, I shall represent them to you, and rest,

My Lords and Gentlemen.

Your most humble Servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL."

The behaviour of Cromwell's pious soldiers while stationed in Wigan was much to their credit. Most of them led an irreproachable life, and were to all appearance sincerely pious, for which they were much respected by the inhabitants. The wild licence almost invariably connected with military life was never seen in the camp, whilst habits of profaneness, debauchery, and intemperance were apparently unknown to his followers.

The historical English stain is now (1649) an accomplished fact. All England, terror-stricken, looks aghast at its own handiwork. Thousands of poor, deluded, self-denying men had been slain in the late wars with comparative unconcern, but now the death of one man, and that one man the king, sends an electric shock of consternation through the whole national system. The lives of English kings had often been threatened before, but here was one actually beheaded on the public street, apparently with a national sanction, and yet each individual felt in his heart he had not sanctioned so much. Those who had allowed it felt the tortures of the uncaptured guilty murderer, and those who refused to interfere in his behalf felt possessed of a coward's conscience. The dark deed had scarcely been done when all, for a moment, stood in blank amazement; then, as if awakening from an infatuated phrenzy, looked on all sides for a scapegoat. Oliver Cromwell would certainly have been marked out at this time as an object deserving the worst retribution, but his own diplomatic cunning made him master of the situation. The experience which his army had gained had made it the best in Europe, and, knowing what an instrument of power in his own hand it was, he petted it until it fawned upon him, as a dog does on its indulgent master. Politicians determined to make a blow at his great power by first abridging the power of the army and abolishing the duties of the chief officers, of whom he

certainly was now the recognised chief. He acted with a high and wary hand. Royalists, already condemned, were tried and executed designedly to terrify others who might still be bold enough to think of resisting a Government more burdensome and tyrannical than that of their martyr-king. An Act was immediately passed by the Cromwellians declaring it to be unlawful to proclaim any person King of England, and read in all market towns on market-days. It was by this tardy means that many first knew of the execution of their Sovereign. The new Act was publicly read in the Market Place of Wigan at eleven o'clock of the forenoon of the 9th February, being market day, ten days after the execution of the king. The Rump Parliament consisted of peers, soldiers, and lawyers. Of the lawyers one of the most indefatigable was Alexander Rigby, virtually now the only member for Wigan, as Orlando Bridgeman had long been disabled for joining Lord Strange in 1642, and beside whose labours those of the other member, Mr. Holcroft, sank into insignificance. Many small boroughs had been disfranchised because of their disaffection during the late troubles, and of all places Wigan had given great trouble; yet Rigby was true to the Parliamentarian cause, and, therefore, was retained as a most useful member. He remained Wigan's only real representative till 1650, when he died, whilst on circuit He was one of the fifty-nine members who signed the king's death warrant. At his death Wigan was virtually disfranchised, for Cromwell never could either forgive or forget its malignancy. It was not represented again during his lifetime, but in the protectorate of his son two members were again returned: Hugh Forth, merchant, of London, and Raufe Markland, an inhabitant of the town, and living at the Meadows. The latter is recorded as being the last member for Wigan who received wages for his representation. These gentlemen were the representatives during 1658-1659.

The Long Parliament entertained lofty notions of its mission on earth—for from the very fact that it was allowed to exist and prosper the belief in its special mission waxed stronger. To do things partially or by halves was, in the opinion of its enthusiastic supporters, altogether beneath such a well-appointed house. To banish kings—the authors of all English ills—from the throne, purge England of monarchies, purify the language, and rectify the machinery of politics was only a small portion of its labours of love. Its duty was to dissolve, decompose, and annihilate the very sources of all English evils, and restore to the nation a theoretically constitutional purity. To cure national epidemics was a great good, but its calling was to destroy the very causes of political disease. Great was the Herculean labour staring it in the face, but greater still was its confidence in itself. It is an easy matter to see faults. This Parliament saw evils, of no small magnitude, in the Church, and its efforts there to control local ecclesiastical matters, and compel Britons to be Christians, were not less than its indomitable efforts in the field.

Commissions were appointed to go down and examine minutely in every parish the state of the church, its wealth and appearance, the devoutness of the parishioners and priests, and how they were affected to the Parliament. Episcopacy was abolished, Calvinistic Puritanism alone was to be tolerated, and especially where the churches were well endowed. Poor parishes were of little consequence, doubtless because they were deemed of little power, but such as had good livings it was deemed advisable to take under the paternal care of the Parliament—so great were the temptations of wealth to lure aside from the straight and narrow path. It seemed no robbery on the part of this great Parliament to confiscate, for political purposes, the church livings of non-Puritan clergymen!

In 1650 the despotism of Cromwell asserted itself. Usurpers tried all they could to please their friends and win over or trample down their foes. Tyranny had been cut down in the person of the king, and again it rose in the conquering Cromwell. There were secret detestation and open rebellion. His enemies became bolder, and many of his friends and admirers lukewarm. He knew the exact state of affairs from his numerous spies. His high hand was lifted with the rod of iron, and his devotees were made major-generals of England. This, he declared, was a necessity for self-defence and national protection. These major-generals were specially commissioned to deprive all Episcopalian Churchmen and Royalists of power, especially in the shape of wealth. Hopes of reconciliation were gone. Negotiation and the Act of Oblivion had failed, and Parliament insisted that bishoprics should be dissolved, and that their lands should revert to the Government. These had caused him great trouble and expense, and so, he said, they deserved special punishing. Six of the eight newspapers then published in England defended his policy of exacting a tax of one-tenth upon the opponents' property above a certain amount. Episcopalian, Catholic, and malignant Wigan came in for her share in this arbitrary measure.

Wisdom is justified of all her children, and this Parliament was wise, even when unjust. Money was wanted, and Parliament knew that it was to be found in the churches and so determined to take it, but the means of stealing it wisely had yet to be suggested and adopted. There were many schemes for the crafty appropriation, but none seemed to assimilate more naturally with the Parliament's devout character than that of appointing a trial, or sort of Shibboleth, by which truly religious parishes should be distinguished from the merely pretentious. The determination was really to plunder ministers of the Gospel, who had hitherto been exempted from the confiscations visited upon all other property holders. There was no intention of plundering those who were not rich, whatever their creed or religious pretensions might be. The Cromwellians had hitherto spared no opposers, and now

clergymen were to be specially dealt with. Soldiers were allowed to pillage their houses, whilst they themselves were cast into prison, and their homeless families left to wander wherever they chose-often begging for a bare subsistence from door to door, or living on the charity of the loyal gentry. Before Cromwell's Commissioners visited the doomed towns a day of solemn fasting and thanksgiving was appointed, when certain special or test forms had to be gone through. There were sixteen inquisitions held by this Commission in Lancashire in 1649, and of these six were held at Wigan, being one of the most important livings in the county. This very Parliament, which now sent these Commissioners to Wigan, was the one that had robbed the borough of its representative member, Orlando Bridgeman, and deprived Dr. Bridgeman, the member's father, of his living there in 1645, after being rector for thirty years, and appointed in his place the ranting turncoat Presbyterian, James Bradshaw. When this plundering Commission came to Wigan Bradshaw held the living. Dr. Bridgeman and his successor, Bradshaw, should not be mentioned together, except to make the latter, by comparison, seem more odious. The bishop was what he pretended to be, a quiet, inoffensive, and useful Episcopalian clergyman, consistent in his acts, and exemplary in his life. Like a true Christian, his religious principles were unaffected by politics. He was of gentle parentage, his father, Edward Bridgeman, having been Sheriff of Devon in 1578. After being educated, and afterwards elected a Fellow and Master of Magdalen College, Cambridge, he was appointed chaplain to James I., by whom he was presented to the living at Wigan in 1615, which was then the second best living in the county, although only worth £80 13s. 4d. a year. He was also Prebendary of Lichfield and Peterborough, and on the 9th May, 1619, was consecrated Bishop of Chester, which high calling he held till Episcopacy was suspended by the Commonwealth, when, 15th December, 1650, all his effects were sold for £1,059, and he retired to his son's house at Moreton, where he died about 1658, and was buried at Kinnersley Church, in Shropshire, where his grandson, in 1719, erected a monument to his memory. Like a weather-vane, Bradshaw turned with every religious or politico-religious breeze, and these winds changed often in his day. When he was appointed in 1645, in place of the deposed Bishop Bridgeman, the town was very malignant, and he tried to please the people by seeming to be all for the King and Church, although his was distinctly a Nonconformist appointment. When the Parliamentarians took possession of Wigan he feared for his life much, and for his living more, and at once took to preaching Puritan cant of the most unmanly nature. Now he seems to see a glimmering hope of Royalist success, but, foolish in his wisdom, neglects to keep the fast on Thursday, 13th June, and so he was degraded from Wigan by his own quondam supporters. His degradation brought

repentance, and, after again conforming to the ruling party, he was appointed to the Chapel of Rainford, in Prescot. Here he kept comparatively quiet until the national favourite, Monmouth, rose in arms, and gained every prospect of success, when Mr. Bradshaw, of course, joined him; but, instead of the rich living which he expected, he The existence of this Nonconformist was a most was ignominiously imprisoned. unenviable one. His mind was full of hope and doubt: hoping for preferment, yet doubting his deserts. The half-smothered voice of his conscience was sufficiently audible to cause him disturbance. Though flattered by the success of his own designs, continual plotting and strategy were the necessary consequents of his unsettled ambition, and thus, whatever greatness he might have accidentally attained, permanent happiness was beyond his reach, for, like all men of his class, he was necessarily carried hither and thither by the rise and fall of the tide of affairs to which he had voluntarily subjected himself. Politics and religion were the disturbed affairs in which he trusted, and they could scarcely be more unsettled than in his time, and, consequently, he was tossed like a helpless and giddy waif on the ocean. So wavering was his ambition that he was willing to become the people's puppet, and woe to the man, in any age, who is so void of self-will as to allow, himself to become the tool of others, for he must inevitably pay the ignominious penalties of unscrupulous popularity.

Wigan and every living in the neighbourhood were closely scrutinised by the Commission. Every witness who could give evidence was examined, every particular inquired into, and a voluminous report sent to Parliament. Particulars of these Parliamentary Inquisitions of 1649 and 1650 are to be seen in the Lambeth MSS. The Commissioners, in their reports, represented that there was a parish church within Wigan, and a mansion house, with the appurtenances, called the parsonage of Wigan. They found the glebe lands to be worth £30 a year, chief rents about £30 a year; tithe, corn, and privy tithe worth £40 a year. The whole tithes were valued at £417 10s. 8d., but from this there had to be deducted a rent charge of £20, payable to the Cathedral of Lichfield. The inquiry further elucidated the fact that the incumbent did not keep the Fast of June 13th, although reported to be a "painful, able, preaching minister"; so he was immediately deprived of the benefice, and the young Charles Hotham appointed in his stead. Hotham studied judicial astrology, and searched into the secrets of nature.—(Calamy's Nonconf. Man., vol. II., page 181). Half of the tithes of Haigh belonged to Roger Bradshaigh, Esq., and his ancestors, and they paid £16 per annum to the Rectors of Wigan for divers years, and also to Mr. Bradshaw, but they only paid £3 6s. 8d. before Dr. Massie's time (1604).—(Parl. Inq., Lambeth MSS.)

Those who look for faults very easily find them, and it was the duty of this Commission to look for them. To have wealth was sufficient ground for being

suspected. Parent parishes in towns and country offshoots were keenly scrutinised. pretended to find out the able preacher and honest man. Mr. Richard Baldwin was then doing duty as incumbent of the old Parish Church of Holland, formerly a chapel belonging to Wigan Parish Church, but it discovered also he had not kept "the late Fast This was sufficient, and his tithes were sequestrated. The Commissioners reported that there was a parsonage house, glebe, and housing at Bryn, of the yearly value of £161; three water corn-mills, with £30 a year and the tithes of corn; and small tithe, worth £445 2s. a year. Mr. Charles Herle was the incumbent, "one orthodox, Godly preaching minister, but did not observe Thursday, the 13th of June inst., as a day of humiliation." He had been presented by the Earl of Derby, who claimed to be patron.—(Parl. Inq., Lamb. MSS., vol. II.) In 1645 the committee of plundered ministers recommended, and the Parliament ordered on the 2nd March, that £40 per annum should be paid out of the tithes of Culcheth, sequestrated from John Culcheth, Esq., a Papist and delinquent, for the increase and maintenance of the minister of the chapel of the new church in Winwick, there being but £5 belonging to the said chapel. The brothers and sisters of Mr. Culcheth had been wrongfully deprived of these tithes, which had been settled by their father, John Culcheth, Esq., by deed dated the 14th of July, 16th Charles I., 1640, on his younger children. This plundering order was rescinded on the 29th August, 1648, although the grossly injured parties did not receive the benefit of the tardy and reluctant justice which was done them in the year 1650.—(Culcheth Papers). The Commissioners found that the godly and painful minister of Culcheth Chapel, Mr. Leigh, did not observe the Fast of 13th June. The tithe of Culcheth, worth £53 a year was sequestrated owing to the delinquency of John Culcheth, Esq. Rakeden, two miles from its parish church, had a stipend of £3 1s. 7d. per annum, paid out of the Duchy of Lancaster, and a donation of £2 per annum, given by Mr. Richard Blackburne, late of Newton, for a preaching minister. The tithes of Newton were valued at £60 per annum, and £83 1s. 3d. "was lately received by Mr. Thomas Morrison, deceased, as his salary." The minister was Mr. Thomas Blackburne, who came to the place by the general consent of the whole chapelry. He was "a preaching cure, but did not observe the last fast." He had £23 1s. 7d. as his salary.—(Parl. Inq., vol. II.)

Like the postscript of a lady's letter, the last sentence is generally the chief information of all the Commissioners' reports.

The Charity Commissioners reported that the whole town of Orrell, half of Billinge, and a fourth of Winstanley, were divided from the parish of Wigan, and annexed to the parish of Holland. They found that the Curate of Billinge, who received £50 a year from the Rector of Wigan, led a quiet, honest life, and that he

seemed to have been a good Christian; but foolishly or otherwise he neglected to keep the Fast of 13th June, and, of course, was reported by the Parliamentary Inquisitors, and deprived of his living, just as his own patron rector, James Bradshaw, had been removed from Wigan.—(Parl. Inq., Lambeth MSS., vol. II.)

The old "call books" or jury lists are on stamped "pot" pages, each page having two "1 penny" stamps, and, in addition, having the Inland Revenue stamp, stating that the duty on the paper was "five pence a quire." Those for 1647, 1649, 1650, 1651, and 1681 have been placed at my service, and are specially useful in notifying the prevailing important trades: braziers, pewterers, mercers, smiths, coverlet-weavers, barbers, plumbers, dyers, and butchers being those most frequently mentioned. In 1649 there were no less than seventeen aldermen, exclusive of the Mayor, and in 1650 twenty-four. From these burgess-lists jurymen were drawn by lot to decide cases tried before the Mayor in the Moot Hall.

No documents during the Commonwealth bore any reference to the king in the date, as before and after that period, and in no Wigan date is his Highness mentioned, or even the year of the Commonwealth. The following examples are taken from the Wigan Call Book. All these Latin headings are full of strange contractions.

Noia Burgensin infra Vill & Burg de Wigan vocat ad le Session sive meeting day Tent in le Mooth hall infra villam & Burg de Wigan in Com Lanc Cora Josephe Rigby Gen. Major ejusdem vill et Burgi die sabbati vizt xxii die Decembr p. ante ffestu na^{tix} Dm 1649.

The Grand Jury List or Call Book for 1647 contains the following names:-

Robtus Markland, maior. Thomas Stanley, barr., ald. Radus Standish, ald. Robtus Mawdesley, ald. Josephus Rigbie, ald. Chrophus Bancks, ald. Willus fforth, ald. Jacobus Molyneux, ald. Willus Pilkington, ald. Georgius Rudall, ald. Laurancius fford, ald. Jacobus Scott, ald. Michus Pennington, ald. Ambrosius Jollie, ald. Willus Browne, ald. Willus Tempest, ball Edrus Ormshawe, ball. Rogerus Baron, attor., jury. - Sherrington, attor., jury. Willus Waleton. Robtus Briggs. Rogerus Scott. Ricus Casson. Willus Baldwin. Willus Bancks. Radus Browne, dyer. Jacobus Croucke (?). Willus Glover, jury. Robtus Baron, jury.

Robtus Winstanley, jury. Thomas Turner, gen. Augo fforth, gen. Alex. Tompson, gen. Willus fford de Swindley, jury. Johos Standish. Jacobus Atherton, jury. Johos Hardie, jury. Willus Gardn', jury. Robtus Langshaw. Thomas Patricke. Jacobus Langshaw, jury. Thomas Leyland. Rogerus Lathwate. Radus Astley. Gilbtus Ashton. Jacobus Higham. Robtus woods. Robtus Markland, jury. Arthurus Gibbon. Thomas Bancks. Thomas Barrow. Edmundus Molyneux. Thomas Bullocke. John Platt. Thomas Bancks, pewtr. Rogerus wood, smith. Henricus Lee. Seath Mason.

&c., &c., &c.

The under-named list of burgesses for 1649 has the following heading:-

Burgus de Wigan Visus ffranc pleg sive Seth Tent in le Mooth halle infra vilde Burg de Wigan in Com Lanc coram Ambrosie Jollie Gen. Major vill et Burgi pbd die sabti (vizt in Com Lanc sexto die Octobris Anno Dm 1649.

These documents are endorsed outside as "Records of ye Qr. Sessions, Wigan."

Ambrosius Jollie, maior. Jacobus Cames Derbie. Ricus Dus Molineux. Carolus Brandon. Ricus Houghton, barr. Thomas Stanley, barr. Willus Gerrard, barr. Georgius Midleton, barr. Alex. Radcliffe, balnei miles. Thomas Tildesley, miles. Orlando Bridgeman, miles. Cicild Trafford, miles.

Johes Stanope, miles.

Johes Talbott, miles. Robtus Wingfeild, miles.

Thomas Perient, miles. Willus Bradshaw, miles mortuus.

Vivian Molyneux, miles. Radus Blackstones, miles.

Johes Booth, ar.

Edrus Standish, ar. Ricus Shutleworth. ar.

Petrus Venables, ar.

Chrus Anderton, ar.

Ricus Lathom, ar.

Thomas Gerard, senior.

Willus Norres, ar.

Robtus Blundell, ar.

Alex. Rigbie de Burgh, ar.

Alex. Rigby de Midleton, ar.

Ricus Holland, ar.

Radus Ashton de Midleton, ar.

Johes Moore, ar.

Edrus Butterworth, ar.

Edrus Ashton, ar. mortuus.

Edrus Gerard, ar.

Edrus Hyde, ar.

Ricus Boyer, ar.

Petrus Daniel, ar.

Hugo Charnley, ar.

Rogerus Newell, ar.

Ricus Alport, ar.

Johes Meare, ar.

Johes Gerard, ac.

Edrus Bromley, ar.

Radus Sneade, ar.

Ricus Urmeston, ar.

Robtus Gardner, ar.

Abrahamus Langton, ar.

Edrus Scarsbricke, ar.

Johes Holecrofte, ar.

Georgiu ffog, ar.

Adamus Hulton, ar.

Robtus Browne, ar.

Bartholemeus Hesketh, ar.

Thomas Lee, ar.

Henr. Turvile, ar.

Ricus Standish, ar.

Josephus Climsman, ar.

Willus Smith, ar. Samuell Bispham, ar.

Willus ffarington, ar.

Georgius Lee, ar.

Thomas Worsley, ar.

Edrus Chisnall, ar.

Ricus Hatnall, ar.

Thomas Longworth, ar. Abrahamus Launce, gen.

Alex. Holt, gen.

Oliver Markland, gen.

Johes Bretherton, gen.

Radus Browne, gen.

Thomas Markland, gen. Georgius Warren, gen.

Lyonall ffarington, gen.

Johes Dunbabin, gen.

Radus Heaton, gen.

Thomas Ince, gen.

Thomas Anderton, gen.

Willus Westbye, gen.

Ricus Fleetwood, gen.

Henr. ffleetwood, gen.

Carolus Walmisley, gen.

Thomas Berrington, gen.

Willus Dicconson, gen. ffrus Sanders, gen. Ricus Bishopp, gen. Edrus Ashton, gen. Petrus ffulkes, gen. Petrus Travers, clicus. Robtus Fogge, clicus. Petrus Shaw, clicus mortuus. Johes floge, clicus. Jacobus Whittakers, clicus. Edrus Eltonhead, gen. Edrus Tarbuck, gen. Alex. Bradshawe, gen. Radcliffe Gerard, gen. Thomas Sergeant, gen. Willus Walton, gen.

Edrus Parr, gen. Thomas Alburgh, gen. . Elizeus Heyes, gen. Georgius Dalton, gen. Phillippus Asley, gen. Edrus Dicconson, gen. Thomas Hey, gen. Thomas Breares, gen. Willus Turner, gen. Egidius Heysham, gen. Willus Prescott, gen. Ricus Sankey, gen. Robtus Roe, gen. Johes Gardner, gen. Robtus Woods. Radus Scott de Pembton.

CHAPTER III.

Politics and further Preparations for War—Derby and the Covenanters—Derby's March to Wigan—Colonel Lilburne—Battle of Wigan Lane—Fatalities of the Battle—Fugitives—Derby's Flight—Condition of the Town—Derby Executed—His Body in Wigan—Parish Registers and the Battle—Sir William Widdrington—Sir Thomas Tyldesley—The Tyldesley Monument—Civil War Tract—Letters Written at Wigan—Jury List for 1651—Churchwardens' Accounts.

THE Long Parliament was now divided against itself in a struggle for predominance in the kingdom, but Cromwell stood with the whole army of England at his back, and knew that, thus armed, he was stronger than any power that could oppose him. Dissension made him determined, and he steadily hewed a way for his ambition. He was the darling of his soldiers, and he fostered their affection. At the beginning of his eventful career he longed to be the saviour of his country, but now his selfish ambition told him he was the greatest man in England. glorious victories in the people's cause were dazzling the eyes of all. opportunity was not fully come. It was not yet the time to lay down the sword, for the Scots had taken up the cause of the king and invaded the land. He learned from his couriers, who were hurrying to him from every county, that the king had taken the field with a large army. Preparations were at once made to meet him. His plans were made known by spies. Lord Derby, ever loyal, had arrived in England at the king's request, with three hundred Manxmen, to assist his sovereign in taking the crown and kingdom, which were justly his. His forces were soon augmented by many Wigan men and Lancashire Presbyterians, who, however, were only half-heartedly attached to him because he stoutly refused to sign their Covenant at their request. The Scotch had a strong, deeply-rooted, Calvinistic belief in their Presbyterianism, and were intolerable to other creeds. They argued that there could only be one true religion, and Presbyterianism they looked upon as a religion and creed in itself, and so, according to their logic, no other religion could stand near its threshold. It suited their religious spirit to struggle with something tangible. Episcopacy, like

a giant Antichrist, was in their midst, and in struggling with it they persuaded themselves they were wrestling with the very devil himself, and, therefore, were making themselves heroes in the eyes of the Deity. This strongly-expressed feeling of bigotry, like Puritanism in England, fostered a national hypocrisy that even many of the people themselves were duped into believing was true religion. Covenanters of Scotland and Puritans of England-with many most laudable exceptions-derogated into canting hypocrites, and were continually mouthing Scriptural phrases in their houses, their markets, and taverns. The whole Scottish nation was imbued with a religious mania, and so infatuated was it-for then it was a religion that lived, not by faith, but by works and public professions—that every proselyte was received into their midst, and considered a fresh sparkling jewel in their crown of glory. If there were such rejoicing over the conversion of ordinary mortals, how much more would they rejoice over the conversion of their king. The army under Hamilton had been led to believe that Charles was a true convert to Presbyterianism, and, moreover, that the great Lord Derby would gladly become one of their own faithful creed. Derby was an honourable man, whose conscience was as inviolate as the religious convictions of many in the army now ready to take the field with him. He refused to sign their covenant, and the spirit of the old Crusaders was aroused in the Covenanters, and their enthusiasm for Derby died. The most honest part of the army immediately left their prospective leaders, but the other part gave a pretentious adherence to him, allowed themselves to be maintained by him, whilst longing for With such an army of such Christians Derby set out to aid his king. At the beginning of the Rebellion many of his followers had been but raw recruits, who knew nothing of the hardships of a soldier's life, and many indeed, whose clothes were but rags, were impressed into his service and armed with nothing better than implements of agriculture, clubs, or bludgeons; but now there were no able-bodied men who did not know something of the art of war, although many were as poorly armed as any had been at the commencement of the great civil Cromwell's men, on the other hand, were well armed, and, from severe discipline and almost constant practice, had become veterans, and were superior both in numbers and warlike ability. Still, with the conscious feeling of right on his side, Derby, with his comparatively untrained followers, pushed towards Wigan with the intention of capturing it and afterwards joining the king, who had set up his royal standard at Worcester on the 22nd of August, 1651. Under Lord Derby was Major-General Sir Thomas Tyldesley, son of Edward Tyldesley, Esq., and Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Preston, of Holker, Esq. All the Tyldesleys were zealous Royalists, and Sir Thomas was the very heart and soul of the Derby division. His courage and zeal always brought him to the van, and he is said to have been

the bravest and best of the Lancashire Royalists' leaders. Like most of the Royalist generals, he had been trained as a soldier in the low countries, and, like many a nobleman, he had beggared his estate to equip troops in the king's cause.

Secret intelligence of Derby's movements had been brought to Colonel Lilburne. The earl's troops had just approached within sight of the dismantled town of Wigan on the forenoon of the 25th August, 1651, when the progress of the vanguard was suddenly arrested by the unexpected appearance of Lilburne's forces prepared to receive The bewilderment of the men lasted but a moment, and all the energy and skill of Derby and his generals were at once brought into play. The emergency and necessity for a coup de main were seen at a glance. On the rising bank of the Douglas on their left a large contingent of the enemy were arrayed under protection, whilst many were ensconced behind hedges on the right. It was impossible to march through the lines to Wigan except by a struggle that would inevitably be fatal to many. To retreat meant defeat and an entire failure in the object of their rising. There was nothing for it but to fight desperately. Derby had 1,500 men, or, as Secombe says, only 600, and these not all "leal and true." The enemy's cavalry were very superior, and every soldier was true to his gallant leader. Although thus surprised, Derby instantly and confidently halted, and marshalled his men in readiness for the attack. Towards midday the battle began, and the enemy, being weak in infantry, were like to be instantly routed and an easy victory gained by the Royalists. Yet every man contested his ground, and looked eagerly for an advantage. The flintlocks of Derby's sharpshooters wrought deadly work among the Puritans. The engagement was a sanguinary one from the very beginning. Victory seemed now on this side, now on that, as the eager war cries rallied the regiments and roused the individual courage. "The King and the Earl of Derby!" cried the Royalists, "Liberty! Liberty!" cried the infuriated foe, levelling their swords with every cry on Scotchman, Manxman, and Lancashire lad. There was, in the midst of bitter determination, no calling for quarter, for death or victory was the object of the brave. Derby himself was ever in the heat of the battle, and seemed to have a charmed life, as if a predetermined fate purposely spared him for future history. Notwithstanding the gallant onsets of the Royalists, the Puritans had gained an advantage, and the battle seemed to be going sorely against Derby's forces, whilst he himself, as if filled by some superhuman courage, in order to rally the drooping spirits of his men, frequently rode into the thick of the foe, displaying the while prodigious strength and valour. Again and again he charged past bullets and swords. His horse was slain, and he himself severely wounded; yet he seemed not to be inconvenienced, nor even to feel his wounds. His faithful French servant clung to him, and followed him into the very jaws of death, whilst many of his men were

already throwing down their arms in despair, calling for quarter, and, wounded, submitting as prisoners of the foe. Derby's charger had fallen, but a riderless steed was then only too easily obtained, Again he mounted and charged whilst calling on his men to follow. He seemed to be re-animated by a courage that defied physical weakness. His was a determination to conquer and live rather than the courage of despair. Shots were fired at him, but they either missed or glanced from his breastplate: spear-thrusts pierced him, and he was hacked at with swords; yet he galloped, as with mad impetuosity, through the masses of the enemy, the wonder and admiration of friend and foe, slaying and wounding as he rode. Again was his horse shot under him, and he himself wounded afresh, and his faithful French servant was at last struck dead at his feet. Fiercer and yet more hopeless grew the battle, for now there were seemingly neither chances of escape nor hope of victory, yet bravely Derby fought and well, but all in vain. The gallant Cavalier, Sir Thomas Tyldesley, ever in the vanguard of his division, had been no less courageous than Derby. Again and again had he renewed the attack, showing an example of envious bravery; yet, with him, too, affairs had gone from bad to worse, and in a desperate onslaught he was slain, and his men, as if their courage had fallen with their leader, were terror-stricken, and fell easy victims to the foe. Lord Widderington, who had only lately been made a baron for his gallant services to the king, had been fatally wounded, and Colonel Boynton had been slain. Throughout the whole lines a panic ensued, and the army became a disordered multitude, in which each soldier thrust his neighbour aside in his eagerness for personal safety. foot were commingled, friends and foes lay side by side, weltering in their blood or calmly oblivious in death to the struggles in which they themselves had a moment before taken such dreadful part. Flintlocks, pitchforks, and swords were but impediments, and so were thrown away in the wild effort for self-preservation. the defeated faltered or fled, the bloodthirsty ambition of the victors aroused in them the fiend for fellow-destruction, and every fatal stroke of the sword brought a smile of sweet revenge to the face of the overpowering foe, whose pitiless war cries drowned the groans of the wounded and dying, who lay prone on the blood-stained field, unable to remove from danger or join further in the conflict. for which they fought was forgotten, and each man thought of himself as he cast away his armour and arms, gave himself up to the foe, sought shelter in the neighbouring woods, or slunk by byeways into the town, and thus, in despair, sought shelter in the very stronghold of the enemy. All hope was now lost, and to fight further was but a display of recklessness. Every man was left to his own resources, and Derby, mounted on his third horse, and accompanied by six officers, cut his way through the astonished but victorious forces, and, hotly pursued, fled into Wigan. For two hours had the battle raged and every inch of the ground been hotly contested. In a few hours the battle of Wigan Lane was fought and lost, and during this short time many a brave fellow had fallen to rise no more. Derby himself had performed prodigies of valour, often against fearful odds, but he had not escaped unscathed. He had received seven shots in his breastplate, thirteen cuts on his beaver, and five or six wounds on his arms and shoulders. Twice had he passed through the whole body of the enemy, and two horses had been killed under him. Besides the slain, five colonels, three adjutant-generals, four lieutenant-colonels, one major, four captains, two lieutenants, and four hundred rank and file were taken prisoners.

Confusion, desolation, and excitement had taken possession of the town. Alexander Thompson was mayor; William Baldwin and Robert Winstanley were the bailiffs, or, as they are termed in the churchwardens' accounts, balinos, or balivos: Robert Litherbarrow and Roger Wycroft were churchwardens. The Royalist, or malignant, inhabitants were in high hopes that Derby would succeed in taking the town, and the Parliamentarian portion were terror-stricken at the very thought of the consequences of such an issue to the battle raging beyond the ruins of the old walls. Some were bold enough to venture to advantageous places of safety to view the conflict from afar. When it became known that the Royalists were being defeated, the Parish Church became the theatre of confusion, for there many had already retired to pray. The confused multitudes believed the victors would sack the town whilst in search of fugitives, and were also seized by the strange delusion, common to ignorant and superstitious civilians under such circumstances, that soldiers in time of battle are so infatuated by a thirsty desire for blood and the destruction of human life as to be altogether unable to observe any distinction except the colours of their own regiments. The church was literally besieged, and filled to overflowing, in the hope that by their prayers even the most relentless and bloodthirsty enemies might sheathe their swords within the precincts of the sacred There gossip and prayer were commingled, and when the news of the defeat, flight, and pursuit arrived, the anxious, woe-begotten looks of despondency and fear of the inhabitants, who looked more like conscience-stricken guilty sinners than unfortunate citizens sadly sinned against, were pitiful to behold. panio-stricken, and in their bewilderment much damage was done in the church and churchyard, and this is testified to by this very significant and memorable entry in the churchwardens' accounts :-- "Paid to William Johnson, Richard Dobson, and others, for dressing the church and churchyard after the fight, 15a." The wages paid for a good workman by the churchwardens was a shilling a day, and therefore fifteen shillings represents a great deal of labour. The battle had been fought and

lost, and subsequent history revealed that, notwithstanding the stubborn resistance of some of Derby's men, it was impossible for them to win, for many of his leaders confessed that "carnal self-seeking" led them on, and that when they saw no hopes of self-aggrandisement they saw nothing to fight for.

There is a hero in every war, and a romance in connection with every hero. In the battle of Wigan Lane there were not only heroes who were in themselves full of romance, but who each in himself made Wigan romantic. The history of a common soldier, however brave he may be or however strange his history—and God knows the histories of the poor are as strange, romantic, and full of sympathy as any history of king or Croesus might be, and yet they are by no means full of interest, but pass away as a tale that is told. But not so is it with the rich and influential, who, surrounded with all the luxuries which wealth commands, disdain these as trifles and descend to the common level of humanity, court bravery that brings distinction and manliness into bold relief, and gives to an appreciating public a national picture of patriotism, of which they themselves are the central figure, if not personified patriotism itself. Of such self-denying and nation-loving men and women there were abundant specimens in the Great Rebellion period, many of whom the malignant Wigan nourished and brought up, and at length gave a resting place to in or near her sacred edifice. These heroes appear on both sides. Many of them sacrificed all they had for a principle dear to their hearts, and many laid down their lives because they considered it a duty to their lawful king. Whether for principle or king, they all deserve the most honourable mention by their grateful or ungrateful descendants. It is easy to condemn, and even to condemn reasonably, when all the facts of the case are laid bare by a historical post-mortem examination; but to understand aright the nobleness of the natures of friends and foes, it is necessary to imagine oneself standing in the very same position in contemporary times, and prejudiced by the same illogical reasoning, which no arguments were forthcoming to refute. He that looks on from a distance can easily criticise or even dictate what ought not to be or should be, but he that is eagerly engaged in the struggle must act on the impulse of the moment or with flashing judgment. Although many had been enforced into the military ranks, there were few who were not convinced at heart that their sacrificial work was a duty to themselves and to their country. No Englishman, and certainly no Wiganer, can hear of the battle of Wigan Lane without taking in an interesting retrospective view of the history of Although the king was not personally engaged in the conflict there, the restoration and peace of the kingdom depended much on its results. battle there brought victory to the Royalists, a very different record might have been left of the doings at Worcester shortly after, for, although the battle was by

no means insignificant in itself, the army destroyed there would have been spared and inspirited for fighting under the king's own banner.

Amongst those who escaped into the town was Lord Derby himself, severely wounded. In the tottering old walls of Wigan there were then more breaches than gates, and these were unguarded in the excitement of success, and so became thoroughfares into the town for the fugitives who feared to enter by the gates. To most of the fugitives the town was already well known, for they had garrisoned it, fought for it, and knew the abode of every loyal person in it, and thus felt they would be safer there than in the open country (harried by troopers) if the adventure past the soldiers were once safely accomplished. Many blood-stained, ragged, and wearied soldiers crept stealthily, like wounded game in the forests, into quiet and unfrequented corners of the old thatch-covered Wigan houses. Many were gladly and hospitably, though secretly, received, for everyone who sheltered a fugitive felt he was defying the enemy and working for the king. Many a brave woman in malignant Wigan ministered that day, as often before, at the risk of her own life, to the wants of fugitive Royalists, for, though these women fought not in the field, their loyalty and great-heartedness were often seen in their strong devotion and The greater the danger of doing a good deed is the greater is the self-sacrifice. glory when it is done. To protect Lord Derby was a perilous act. delivered him over to the enemy would have brought a rich reward. That he was sheltering in the town many knew, yet none betrayed him, so little power have money-bribes over true friends. Wearied and wounded, he made the best of his way towards the Market Place. Yet as a wounded soldier, unknown as Lord Derby, he might have been taken publicly into the town with small risk of detection, for Cromwell's orders to his officers were that the inhabitants should have free liberty to the place of engagement, with carts or in any other peaceable way, to carry away wounded soldiers to such places as they should think fit, provided they meddled not with nor took away the arms there. Derby, however, went secretly, but undisguised, as a fugitive, into the town, and had his wounds dressed in a house off the Market He sought shelter in "The Dog" tavern, the door of which was immediately barred within by the Royalist landlady. Here he rested for some time, and was refreshed. Henceforth the house was historically distinguished, and on the door was placed a brass plate bearing the three legs of man-part of the Derby armsand the inscription "Honi soit qui mal y pense." Getting away in disguise, he pursued his way by Warrington to Worcester. But events proved he only escaped from danger to death. After the defeat and dispersion at Worcester, he gave himself up, and was most unjustly treated according to the recognised rules of war. Like his royal master, he underwent a mock trial, inasmuch as he was prejudged,

and was condemned to be executed at Bolton because of the falsely called massacre which he caused there. His speech on the scaffold and execution are fully treated of in works on his life and history of the times. His execution was conducted by the member for Wigan, Alexander Rigby, who, as if in cold-blooded revenge, had the scaffold made of wood brought from Lathom House.

The body of the deceased nobleman was given to his relatives, a poor concession for the irreparable deed, and was carried in mournful procession from Bolton to As the Romans of old looked on the sadly Wigan, where it rested for the night. wounded body of their dead Cæsar, and listened to the harangue of Marc Antony, so was the headless body of the once great, now martyred, Derby looked at by many a tearful eye in Wigan, the very stronghold of his family. A town bravely held and defended by him now mourned his untimely end, and longed for unseen but apparently impracticable revenge. There was a strange mixture of sadness and joy in Wigan that night that Lord Derby's corpse lay in the town: sadness from all true Royalists and men of right sympathetic feeling, and joy among the Roundheads at the final overthrow of their foe. There lay the beheaded trunk of him who, for the good of his country, in his unselfishness, had, through nearly twelve years of almost unbroken trial and disaster, clung to his ill-fated king, with nothing to win, but vast estates, an honoured name, and a precious life to lose. Brave even in a multitude of brave ones, to this ignominious end had his enemy brought him, as if revenge were sweeter and dearer than admiration of courage. Not in battle had he fallen, but on the scaffold, after a prejudged trial, and yet this was a small matter for a party that could unscrupulously behead its king. Like the representative of his country, trodden down by usurping tyranny, his mangled remains lay there in the full gaze of wondering men and women, to whom his face in life had been familiar, and who, like him, were participants in the common national degradation and struggle. Unavailing but heartfelt tears copiously displayed the grief of Wigan over its dead chief. Very kindly did the inhabitants speak of his gentleness and courage displayed throughout his dark career. His errors or failings were suppressed or spoken of in such condoling language that even they seemed virtues. Wigan had long been lying in sackcloth and ashes, but this new grief seemed to eclipse the It seemed a crowning calamity to the retrospective misfortunes and humiliations brought upon Wigan during the preceding ten years. Next morning all the inhabitants followed the mournful cavalcade beyond the town, and returned forgetful of his known faults, determined to bear him in happy memory.

Whether the soldiers of the rank and file who fell in the conflict in Wigan Lane were buried on the battle field or in the churchyard cannot now be ascertained, although the likelihood is that the large expenditure of 15s. paid to the

gravedigger, Dobson, and his hired assistants was chiefly incurred by burying the If they were buried there, they would be laid in one common grave. Certainly no mention is made of them in the registers, as was done at Bolton after the battle there. In the registry of burials for August there are only eleven entries, three of which were subsequent to the battle of Wigan Lane. entered in a clear, bold hand, altogether different from the writing of the other eight. They are :-

27th (August) My Lord Witherington de Northumberland.

Collonell Boyneton de Yorkshire. 27th

29th Collonell trolope, Governor of Newarke.

Sir William Widdrington, of Widdrington Castle, in the county of Northumberland, was a knight, and for his good services to the king was raised to the dignity of Baron of the realm by letters patent, dated 10th November, 19th Car. II., by the title of Lord Widdrington, of Blankney, in the county of Lincoln. He first raised a force under the Duke of Newcastle. By his wife Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Anthony Thorold, of Blankney, Knight, he had seven sons and two daughters. His eldest son, William, succeeded to his title and estates.—(Dugdale's Baronage of England, page 471).

The remains of Sir Thomas Tyldesley were buried in the family vault, and twenty-eight years afterwards a monument raised by his cornet, Alexander Rigby, This monument was afterwards taken down, but again rebuilt to his memory. where it now stands in Wigan Lane. The original inscription on this monument was :---

> A high Act of Gratitude erected this Monument, and Conveighs the

Memory of Sir Thomas Tyldesley to Posterity, Who served K.C. 1st. as Left. Col. at Edghill Battell. After raised

Regiments of Horse, Foot, and Dragoons, And for the desperate Storming Burton-upon-Trent,

over a bridge of 36 arches, Received the Honour of Knighthood.

He afterwards served in all the Warrs in great Command, Was Governour of Litchfield,

And followed the Fortune of the Crown through the 3 Kingdoms.

Would never Compound with the Rebels, though strongly invested,

And on the 25th of Aug., 1651,

Was here slain, commanding as Major General under E. of Derby,

To whom the grateful Erector, Alex. Rigby, Esq., was Cornet, And when he was High Sheriff of the County of Lancaster, Anno 1679, placed this high obligation On the whole Family of the TYLDESLEYS.

The title of one of the many Civil War Tracts now issued was:—"A great victory, by the blessing of God, obtained by the Parliament's forces against the Scot's forces, commanded by the Earl of Derby, on the 25th of August, 1651, near Wigon, in Lancashire. Certified by a letter from Col. Lilburne and two letters from Chester; also a letter from Colonel Birch to Mr. Speaker. Fifteen hundred totally routed. Earl of Derby wounded, and pursued towards Bolton. Four hundred prisoners taken, amongst which many officers and gentlemen of note. Slaine, three knights and divers colonels and other considerable officers and gentlemen; with a list of the chief particulars of the victory. Imprimatur, Hen. Scobel Cleric, Parliamenti, London. Printed by Robert Ibbitson, dwelling in Smithfield, neere Hosier Lane End, 1651."

Col. Thos. Birch's letter to Mr. Speaker:-

"Liverpool, August 26th, 1651.

Sir,—It hath pleased the Lord, yesterday, to give an utter overthrow, by Col. Lilburne's regiment of horse, to the Earl of Derbie, who was raising men here in this county for the Scot's King. The Earl, at his coming over from the Isle of Man, brought but 300 men, whereof 60 were horse; but landing about the middle of the shire, when the Scot's army were passing out of it, he had the better opportunity, by our destractions, to march up to Warrington to them, and there he had the assistance of Major-General Massy, with a regiment of horse to countenance his proceedings, while he gathered more to him; who afterwards leaving him when the Earle's forces were reputed considerable, to carry on the worke, and here being none in this county left competent to make opposition, but all marched out with the army. I sent both to my Lord Generall and Major's-Generalls to acquaint them with it, whereupon Col. Lilburne came very opportunely; yet the enemy being stronger in foot, and securing himself betwixt two rivers, he was not to be attempted by horse only, and all that could be afforded in assistance were two foot companies from Chester, one of my regiments, left about Manchester, not being so ready as the rest to march out, and what musketeers I horsed from hand, with some few country men; but since my Lord Generall's owne regiment of foot being sent up, and within one day's march, the enemy attempted towards the Scot's army, and being pursued by Col. Lilburne's regiment, and the small addition before named, without the conjunction of my Lord Generall's regiment, it pleased God to give them an absolute overthrow, as the inclosed from Col. Lilburne intimates. The number of the prisoners and the slaine, with their qualifications, I cannot yet give further account of, but I hope the successe prevents all designs in these parts. I must excuse for this distracted letter,

And ever am, Sir, your most reall and humble Servant, Thos. BIRGHE.

For the Right Honourable William Lenthal, Esq., Speaker of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England, at Westminster, these presents."

Colonel Lilburne's letter was as follows:—

"Wigan, 15th August, 1651.

Honoured Sir,—The Lord hath pleased, this day, to appeare for us, in the totall rout and overthrow of the Lord of Derby and his forces, which was increased to about 1,500. He himself, though wounded, escaped, though narrowly. I would only entreat you to send out what horse you have, or can get, to ride up and downe the country to gather up stragglers. I cannot enlarge myself at present, but I entreat you to accept of this from him that desires to expresse himself. Your ammunition is come safe. The Lord of Derby I heare is fled towards Bolton, but his sumptures and tresure are here. We intended for Manchester this night, and had hopes to take my Lord Generall's regiment of foot, and to have had five hundred men in readinesse to joyne with them. The Lord Witherington cannot live long. Colonell Boynton and Tyldesley are slaine; and others very considerable. I have divers collonels prisoners.

Your very humble Servant, ROBERT LILBURNE.

For my honoured friend, Col. Birch, Governor of Liverpool, these haste."

The following letter also refers to the battle of Wigan Lane:-

"Chester, 26th August, 1651.

Sir,—The last night, within three miles of Wigan, your forces engaged the Earl of Derby, and put them to a perfect route; about 400 prisoners taken. About five o'clock this day the country men brought in about 10 stubborn, resolute gentlemen of the scattered party. Whither the Earl is fied is doubtful, but it is certain he is wounded, and of 1,500 men not any left to engage."

The following is a true copy of the Call Book or Jury List for the Quarter Sessions held in the Moot Hall, before the Mayor, Robert Baron, in the year 1651. This is the shortest Jury List I have seen, and is the only one for 1651.

Burg de Wigan in in Com Lanc. Visus ffranck pleg sive Leth tent in le Moot hall infra villa and Burg de Wigan in in Com Lanc. Com Lanc cora Robt. Baron, Gen. Major vill and Burgi quinto die Aprilis anno Dm 1651.

Noia Jur.

Ricus Casson, jur.

Willus Browne, Plumber.

Willus Baldwin, jur.

Gilbtus fford.

Jacobus Croucke, jur.

Robtus Winstanley, jur.

Edrus Grimshaw, jur.

Radus Markland, jur.

Robtus Langshaw.

Willus fford de Swinley

Robtus Briggs, jur.

Jacobus Atherton.

Robtus Markland, Braseer, jur.

Jacobus Higham.

Willus Cookson, jur.

Carolus Bancks, sen., jur.

Noia Jur.

Alex. Greene, jur.

Willus Gardner, jur.

Thomas Barrow.

Radus Hulme.

Roger Laithwaite.

Thomas Tarleton.

Seath Mason.

Thomas Rylands.

Thomas Bullocke.

Thomas Pattericke, jur.

Robtus Shugsmith, jur.

Rogerus Bibby.

Humphridus Lee, jur.

Jacobus Bancks, jur.

Hugo Moulding, jur.

It is for this year (1651), so fatal to the Royalists, and ever memorable in the annals of Wigan history, that the churchwardens' accounts for the parish are first preserved. Before this their names are only to be found on the pages of the registers of baptisms, marriages, and funerals. They were officials who had far more important duties to perform than their successors of the present day. They were indeed the representatives of the parish, being parish rate collectors, poor-law guardians, and general overseers. When they acted the good Samaritan, by relieving a poor beggar by the wayside, they received the poor man's blessing, but charged the parish for the gratuity. A poor blind man in Pemberton received fourpence, and the parish was charged with it whenever the churchwarden returned from his country ramble. The very smallest receipts and disbursements were entered in the accounts. These accounts, which are written in a paper ledger, are in themselves a miniature history of the parish. According to them Haigh, Aspull, Hindley, Abram, Ince, and

Pemberton were equally rated for the support of the poor of the parish, whilst Billinge and Winstanley had to pay much less. A few items taken from the first page of these accounts are here subjoined, as an interesting specimen, when Robert Litherbarrow and Roger Wycroft were churchwardens.

	в. О	d. 0
Received of the Constable of Haigh and Aspull 41	LO	0
Received of the Constable of Hindley and Abram 41	0	0
Received of the Constable of Ince and Pemberton 4 1	.0	0
Received of the Constable of Billinge and Winstanley 11	0	0
Received of the old Churchwardens 1	4	2
£25	4	2
	в. О	
Pd. to a poor blind man in Pemberton 0	0	4
Pd. to the poor on the third of August 3	5	6
Pd. to William Johnson, Richard Dobson, and others for dressing		
the church and churchyard after the fight 0 1	5	0
Pd. to M. Mitton for one day's work 0	1	0
Pd. to ffrancis Rigbie in prison 0	1	0
Pd. to Edward Winstanley for a fox 0	1	0
ffr ffrankincens, Rosin, Pitch, and Brimstone 8	0	5
&c., &c. * ·	*	*
Dighurgad in all \$33.1	5	2

CHAPTER IV.

Religious and Political Condition of the Borough—Wigan Marriages during the Commonwealth—Guest's Charity—Borough Assessments in 1654—Cromwellian Taxes—Election of 1658-9—Signs of Political Reaction—Free Parliament—Results of Election in Wigan—The Members—Religious Divisions of Lancashire—Election of 1661—Return of the King—Evan Price—Honours to the Borough—The New Charter—Officers of the Town and their Oaths—The Recorder—Sword to be Carried before the Mayor—Pied Powder Court—Liberty to Purchase Lands—No Quo Warrant—Copy of the Charter—Markland's Charity.

REAT and various had been the changes in Wigan during the previous ten years (1641-1651). On the 7th May, 1504-27th of Queen Elizabeth-the town had received its seventh royal charter, so it was not to be wondered at that it was a loyal borough, and malignant in the eyes of radical rebels. king's arms had always been religiously fixed on the Parish Church, and considered as sacred as the building itself. There they were as proudly and defiantly displayed as the regimental colours of an army on the field of battle. The established forms of religion-whether Roman Catholic or Episcopalian-had been devoutly carried out in the ancient edifice of All Saints. Volunteers had gone from the town to do duty for the king whenever required as a matter of course. The town had ever acted as if the burghal motto had been "for God and the king." Wigan had been dismayed. attacked, dismantled, and taken possession of by the rebels. Her episcopalian priest had been expelled, and the church sacked of images and everything with a Papal appearance or connection, and handed unceremoniously to canting Puritans. inhabitants had been persecuted and imprisoned both for their religion and politics. The great Cromwell had trod the streets of the malignant town, and associated his undying name with the borough that had shown so much opposition to his cause He had rested there for the night and penned letters from its and his followers. midst that are now historical English documents. Proclamations affecting the history of all England had been recited in the Market Place by his orders, Papists had once been masters of the town, Episcopalians had overpowered them and reigned in their stead, and now Puritanism has usurped the places of both Episcopalians and Papists. Old established customs had been swept away within ten years, and many that had taken their place had already become obsolete. The town bellman had become a more important individual than ever he had been before. All local and national news were made known by him at the Market Place. His work on weekly market days was like the public reading of the advertising columns of a modern newspaper. Scandal, sales, good news and bad, as well as proclamations of marriages were announced by him in the streets. During the Commonwealth marriages were civil contracts, and not religious ceremonies, and proclamations of banns had to be three times publicly announced by the town's bellman on three market days in the Market Place before the ceremony before the Mayor or other magistrate could be legally performed. It was the fortune of the Mayor himself, Ambrose Jolly, in 1655, to be joined in holy matrimony, and he was three times proclaimed in the Market Place before he could be married to Anne Massey, widow, late of Warrington, on March 10th, 1655. It was not, however, illegal to be proclaimed in the church, for Charles Hotham, Rector of Wigan, was there proclaimed and there married on the 15th September, 1656, before Duran Hotham, Justice of the Peace. Three examples of this part of the contracting ceremonial are here cited from the registers :---

December ye Adam Richardson, yeoman, and Mary Corless, widdow, both of Abram, this day first published, with second and third, in Markett, according to Act of Parliament. Married the 14th day of January, by Justice Standish, of Juxbury.

March ye
10th, 1655.

Ambrose Jolly, gent., Maior of this town and Borrow of Wigan, and Anne Massey,
10th, 1655.

late of Warrington, widdow, this day first published, with second and third time,
according to Act of Parliament, three severall Market dayes.

October ye Ralph Hoolme, husbandman, and Ellen Masson, both of Wigan, this day first 5th, 1656. published in Markett, with second and third time, according to Act of Parliament, were Married before Edward Sumner, Gent., being Maior of Wigan, the 17th day of January, 1656.

A valuable Wigan charity was founded in 1653 by John Guest, who, in the kindness of his heart, in the midst of personal prosperity and the national adversity, was not forgetful of the poverty or interest of his town. The following epitome of the Report of the Commissioners of 1828 and 1839 gives full particulars of his bequest and its history. John Guest, by his will bearing date 28th September, 1653, gave to the ministers of the Parish Church of Wigan and six other places the annual sum of £3 15s. each, charged upon his lands in Abram, with which sum the respective ministers for the time being should buy yearly one hundred and twelve yards of linen cloth, to be

bestowed on 45 of the poorest people within each parish, such as the respective ministers should conceive to stand in the greatest need of the same. Commissioners of 1839 "stated the purport of an Act of Parliament passed 15th Car. II., whereby it was provided that until the sum of £500 should be laid out as therein directed, the premises in Abram should stand charged with the yearly sum of £3 10s. and no more to each of the said parishes. The proportionable part of the sum of £500 was probably never paid to the parish of Wigan, as the yearly sum of £3 10s, is still received as a rent charge issuing out of a farm in Abram, called Bolton House, now (1839) the property of Edward Ackers, of Widnes, and in the occupation of the widow of the late Thomas Stirrup. The other townships in the parish formerly received a small portion of this charity, but this practice was discontinued, probably on account of the smallness of the sum to be divided." The Commissioners further found that by dividing the income of the charity "a great portion is distributed in such small sums that the poor derive little or no benefit from it. It seems advisable that the whole should be laid out in linen, and that some article of clothing should be given to such poor persons of any part of the parish as may be thought by the rector most in distress."

When the Hundred of West Derby was assessed in 1654 there was only one parish (Prescot) rated higher than Wigan. Winwick parish and Wigan were rated alike. Warrington was rated at half. The parish of Wigan consisted of six townships. The following table will best show the taxations and relative assessments:—

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£
   When the Hundred had to pay ...... 192 0 0
                                            96 0 0
                                                      48 0 0
                                                               24 0 0
                                                                         12 0 0
                                            6 0 0
   Then Warrington Parish had to pay 12 0 0
                                                      3 0 0
                                                                1 10 0
                                                                          0 15 0
                                            12 0 0
                                                      6 Ó 0
                                                                3 0 0
   Wigan Parish had to pay ...... 24 0 0
                                                                          1 10 0
   Prescot had to pay ...... 28 0 0
                                            14 0 0
                                                      7 0 0
                                                                3 10 0
                                                                          1 15
   And Wigan Borough had to pay ... 7 6 102
                                            3 14 51
                                                      1 6 83
                                                                0 18 4
                                                                          0 9 21
—(From old MS. printed in Leigh Chronicle.)
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However much the Protector may have grumbled against the expensive luxuries of a monarchy, no ruler could possibly have had his eyes more widely open to the fact that no government can be carried on without money. If it be granted that his government was a legitimate one, then it follows that his taxes were legal; but they were not the less inferior in amount, nor was he less strict in exacting them, than those of the most unconstitutional Stuart. The Receiver-General of the Commonwealth held his annual audit in the borough of Wigan in 1658, of which the following official notice was given:—

Lanc. S.S. These are to give Notice to all persons concerned that his Highnesse Receipt for the County of Lancaster aforesaid is to bee kept at the house of Mr. Rowe, being the Rose and Crowne, in Wiggan, beginning Monday, the 19th day of July, 1658, and there to continue until Friday at night

following, and such persons as have any rents or other dues to pay, and due to his Highnesse the Lord Protector, from Michaelmas last past to the 25th day of June, 1658, are hereby required to appear and pay theyr money at the time and place aforesaid, and to cleare the same with his Highnesse Receivers at theyr pills, bringing with them theyr former acquittances, and also all those as are to receive any money, by order for his or theyr augmentations, or otherwise, are to appear at the place aforesaid upon Saturday, being the 24th of July aforesaid, where they shall receive what in right belongeth to them, or any of them, by vertue of the same orders.

Dated the 10th day of June, 1658.

JOHN BARKER, Receiver-General. Ver. Cop. Concord Cu Original. Examinat. p. Will. Grice, 1658.

Cromwell was still the omnipotent power in England—the great barrier that in himself excluded the English monarchy, and guided and governed the Parliament. He. supported by his worshipping Ironsides, commanded, and the whole country obeyed. His Parliament might justly be called a packed one. During his Protectorate he had not called upon the boroughs to return representatives. Wigan had not returned a member since the bye-election of 1645, when Mr. Holcroft was elected in place of the expelled Mr. Bridgeman. But like all men, great and small, he passed away to his long home, and his son Richard, at the age of thirty-two, assumed the reins of government with all regal pomp. A change was immediately apparent in the political aspect of affairs. The son was entirely unfitted to fill his father's shoes, nor did he seem to have any ambition to do so. Things went from bad to worse. and he summoned a Parliament, not according to the reformed style, but after the ancient custom of issuing writs to all counties and boroughs, and thus Wigan was again (1658) called upon to return two members.

Men of Wigan who were not old could remember the prolonged discontent of the people at having no Parliament from 1627 to 1639, and who also could easily recall the joyful enthusiasm of the masses on the assembly of Parliament at the latter date. During the long unrepresented period there was deep-rooted discontent at having no Parliament, and now in 1660 there is a more deeply-rooted prejudice against the stubborn one-sidedness of an overpowering and self-fettered Parliament that had not really been dissolved for twenty years. The beauty of the political mirage that had existed dazzlingly before men's eyes in the lifetime of the great Cromwell had passed away with that hero, for, as there could only be one Cromwell, so public affairs could exist under him alone as they had done. A charm was again being thrown over dismantled monarchy, and the people were beginning to long for the good old monarchical times to which they and their fathers had been accustomed; but it was legally wrong and punishable to express even a wish for the welfare of the exile over the sea, and so people long kept within the legal restriction of simply and silently wishing. But heartfelt wishes had their limits of suppression, and the

universal wish, first expressed in the national countenance, was whispered with a still small voice, and then loudly re-echoed over the length and breadth of the land. Monk, the general of the forces in Scotland, was lured, on hearing the intelligible echo, not, it would appear, from motives of patriotism so much as from those of self-aggrandisement, to pander, with bewildering strategy, to the public will, and, having overcome the Parliamentarians and secured himself, proclaimed for a free Parliament, to the unbounded joy of the people. Never was good news in England received with greater goodwill. Every man, except such as had cause to fear the revival of constitutional monarchy, of whatever social station or degree, was "hail, fellow, well met," to every Englishman. There was a national excess of joy at the dim prospect of a free Parliament, and it might be said that the very army got drunk, not with excitement, but with the spirits supplied by the overjoyed citizens. This statement is no libel on even the staunch teetotal Ironsides of Cromwell. Ale, the national beverage, could be had to repletion for nothing, so unrestrained were the liberalities of overjoyed Englishmen with the still looming prospect of approaching true liberty and the end of the civil confusions that had darkly reigned Every village and borough tasted the sweet intoxication of national joy, and Wigan, of course, shared the delirium.

The most frequently adopted method of expressing joy in Wigan was the general English one of drinking beer and ringing bells, both of which tended to give good cheer. The chimes of the Parish Church, all day long, on the reception of the news, made the welkin ring, as when the mirthful marriage bells rejoice the lightsome As the day advanced the enthusiasm of the ringers increased, for not only were Wigan ringers heartily and even passionately fond of pulling their mystic ropes at the tuneful time, but a good deal of public money administered to them in the form of home-brewed ale by the churchwardens enlivened their energies to please the delighted crowds of inhabitants collected in the Market Place, whilst they themselves appreciated more and more, as they drank and rang, the glorious privileges that were about to be bestowed on their native land. News of importance was indeed scarce, but this intelligence was gospel to the malignant town. Parliamentarians feared a reaction, and Royalists in the ancient borough were found bold enough to whisper their hopes that the results of the "horrid" rebellion, as the Cromwellian period is called in the Wigan churchwardens' minute book, would be cancelled, and every man have his own again, although as yet there was no open mention of recalling the king. To the timid there was the dreadful prospect of a renewal of civil war, but this was quite eclipsed by the good news of a free Parliament, which was fully expected to represent and respect the national wish. This Parliament of 1660 has most properly been styled the Convention. When it was known there was to be an election, a

political campaign began in the town. Such electioneering never had been known. A bitter contest was carried on between the burgesses proper and the non-burgess inhabitants, and local orators were busy declaiming and denouncing on the side of the inhabitants, whilst the burgesses felt assured that the victory would be theirs, because the ancient custom of voting, confined to themselves, would decide everything in their favour. The inhabitants determined they should have a vote, the burgesses resolutely refused their claims, as they had done on previous occasions, and the unyielding inhabitants resolved to have an election of their own. The voting day came round, the burgess-roll was called, according to custom, in the Moot Hall, and the votes were duly registered; but in opposition to this the other party, on the same day, were as busily and solemnly registering votes for their own candidates. What the numbers of votes were, either at the one hustings or the other, I have been unable to find; but it is a certainty that each party sent up two representatives to the House of Commons, and thus four members instead of two were returned for Wigan. Up to London went the gallant four, whilst all the borough wondered what would happen. Each party felt assured that its two members would be retained, but especially confident were the duly enrolled burgesses. What arguments were laid before the House for and against the strange phenomenon, and led Parliament to come to the conclusion which it did, are, unfortunately, unknown; but, to the consternation of the whole town, all the four members were sent home again, a new writ issued, and the work of the election all gone over again. Some understanding seems to have been arrived at agreeable to both parties, for not only was there apparently no dispute, but the proper number of members was duly returned, and the following new clause added to a subsequent Royal charter received by the town, from which I am inclined to believe that the persevering inhabitants gained their point, and were allowed to vote at elections for members of Parliament, although they were not duly enrolled burgesses :--

Volumus ordinavimus constituimus concessimus et declaravimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus ordinamus constituimus et concedimus et declaramus quod Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ sit et permaneat imposterum imperpetuum Burgus de se Et quod Inhabitantes Burgi de Wigan prædicti de cætero imperpetuum sint et permaneant vigore præsentium unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine per nomen Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ, Ac cos et Successores suos per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine realiter et ad plenam, pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris erigimus facimus ordinamus confirmamus constituimus et declaramus per præsentes, et quod per idem nomen habeant successionem perpetuam.

The four members returned at the first election were Hugh Forth, William Gardiner, John Molyneux, and Roger Stoughton, and at the re-election John Molyneux and Roger Stoughton were the returned representatives.

The Earl of Ancrum in Scotland sat for Wigan in five successive Parliaments. His nephew and heir was first Marquis of Lothian and ancestor of the present and ninth marquis. His first colleague in Parliament was much impoverished in purse and enfeebled in body by his sufferings for adhering to the king. At the Restoration "the Red-hot Royalist" was made Governor of Chester Castle, and died 1696, aged 78 years.—(Much of the information printed in this History about the members for Wigan has been collected and published in "Lanc. and Ches.: Historical and Genealogical Notes," by the Rev. Mr. Beaven, M.A., head-master of the Preston Grammar School, and Mr. W. D. Pink, of Leigh).

Under the Protector, Richard Cromwell, the members for Wigan were Hugh Forth and Robert Markland (1659). Forth was a London merchant, who had married the daughter of John Rigby, of Middleton. He also sat for the borough in the next Parliament. Markland was a Wigan manufacturer, whose family had been long resident in the borough, the chief branch living in the Manor House, near the Parish Church.

"Dugdale, the herald, has, in the Visitation of Lancashire in 1664, a descent of five generations of the Marklands of Wigan. The chief representative living in 1664 was Ralph Markland, of Wigan Woodhouses, then aged 40, who entered the family record at Ormskirk, 22nd September, 1664. He would be the same person with "Ralph Markland of the Meadowes, gent.," of the list of 1673 as above. Robert Markland of Wigan, gent., may have been a brother of Ralph (not noticed by Dugdale), or possibly his second son Robert, who was only a boy in 1664. Robert Markland occurs in 1705, as a trustee of the Free School in Up-Holland, founded in 1667 by Robert Walthew of Pemberton, gent., whose daughter and heir married, about 1647, the above Ralph Markland of the Meadowes, gent., and was mother of Robert Markland, living in 1705."—(Wigan Observer Local Original Notes).

In the Parliamentarian period Lancashire was divided into nine Presbyterian classes. The fourth *Classis* consisted of Warrington, Winwick, Leigh, Wigan, Holland, and Prescot. The subjoined is a partial list of ministers and elders fit to be of this classis:—

MINISTERS :

- Mr. Charls Herl of Winwick.
- Mr. Thomas Norman of Newton.
- Mr. Iames Wood of Ashton.
- Mr. Wil: Leigh of New-church.
- Mr. Henry Atherton of Hollinkaire.
- Mr. Bradley Hayhurst of Leigh.
- Mr. Tho: Crompton of Astley.
- Mr. Iames Bradshaw of Wigan.
- Mr. Tho: Tonge of Hindley.
- Mr. Henry Shaw of Holland.
- Mr. Wil: Plant of Farnworth.
- Mr. Richard Modesley of Ellins [St. Helens].
- Mr. Timothy Smith of Raineforth.
- Mr. Iohn Wright of Billing.

OTHERS FIT TO BE OF THE FOURTH CLASS:

Esquires:

William Ashhurst of Ashhurst, and Peter Brook of Sanky.

Gentlemen:

William Vernon of Shakerley. Iohn Dunbabin of Warrington. Thomas Risley of Warrington. Robert Watmough of Winwick. Gilbert Eden of Winwick. Iohn Ashton of Newton. Iames Pilkington of Ashton. Richard Ashtley of Tildsley. Henry Morrice of Atherton. Alexander Tompson of Wigan. Peter Harrison of Hinley. Thomas Sephton of Skerndsdale [Skelmersdale]. Infinite Separation of Orrel.

"Husbands' Folio Collection, 1646, page 920."

At the general election of 1661 (May) every voice in Wigan was raised in favour of the king and royalty, for the voice of anyone otherwise minded dared not be heard. Wigan was more malignant and loyal than ever it had been. the grief and humiliation it had suffered at the hands of the Royalists were forgotten. All execrations were vented on the Roundheads and the Long Parliament, and every sob of sympathy and smile of joy, every expression of contentment and laudation were for the king. The anti-royalists were the scapegoats that were hunted into the wilderness with all the evil memories of the past twenty and Wigan showed its loyalty by returning two staunch Royalist representatives, Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Geoffrey Shackerley.

At last the nation had become soured of revolution, rebellion, and, indeed, of No doubt much good had been done in the country, but at such an exorbitant price that wise men questioned whether it would not have been better if it had never been done. England discovered that complete reformation in the political world is as difficult to obtain as a perfect reformation of human nature, and so concluded that to pursue the almost unattainable was a madness that could only bring disaster and shame on the nation, if not, indeed, annihilation. The political conversion set the country into convulsions of joy, and no place, in proportion to its size and importance, rejoiced more than malignant Wigan. The town awoke as from a dream that left deeply impressed memories of real disaster. The troubles that it had endured only began to be realised when peace brought its opportunities for reflection. Its former military importance and present impotence and humiliation now showed the inhabitants how near they had approached to the brink of utter destruction, and the feeling that danger was averted and a new state of honour and peace, with prospects of prosperity, entered upon, begot unrestrained joys which impelled them to the extremes of hilarious excitement. Their lawful king was publicly proclaimed, and they felt in their hearts that the happiness which that longed-for event should bring them was worthy of every symptom of devotion and gratitude. The whole borough was amicably combined: grudges and jealousies for the moment were forgotten, and the loving-cup emptied of its very dregs. The bells of the Parish Church were merrily tolled, and the ringers paid extra for their labours of love and joy. An address of congratulation and good wishes, with the principal names in the borough appended, "for your Majesty's happy restoration to your crown, kingdoms, and us," was presented, with the assurance added that the inhabitants would, as they always had done, demonstrate with their lives and interests a ready zeal in his service.

A headstrong democracy and the red-handed demon of anarchy had desolated the land, dethroned monarchy, and revelled in its egotistical supremacy, while royalty and loyalty were afraid or ashamed to lift their heads, until, at last, the inevitable political reaction set in, and the day of reckoning came. Democracy was hurled from the usurped heights of honour, and hissed from the arena of its former sanguinary conquests; the bodies of its dead minions were unearthed from their graves, exposed to public scorn, and ignominiously cast into unconsecrated ground, whilst its living devotees were brought to the bar of justice. The national constitution was freed from bondage, true liberty and its guardian, monarchy, the praise, protection, and glory of the people, were universally welcomed with regal honours, for revolution was at an end and the king restored. Fountains running wine were erected in the public streets. Now was the time to remember and reward friends who had endured tribulation, and to dole out to enemies the rewards of their deeds. Nobles had been impoverished and towns degraded when submission to the rebels might have enriched them. In times of need they had proved themselves to be friends indeed, and, now that the cause they had fought for was victorious, they reasonably hoped for not less than restitution, although even in this many were disappointed, for, where thousands had to be attended to, the requests of not a few were disregarded or overlooked. Wigan had been faithful, and suffered ignominy in consequence: from it had marched the first army in the great revolution to defend the cause of the King, the Crown, and the Constitution: it had been stamped with the opprobrious name of "malignant" by an oppressive commonwealth: it had been assaulted and taken by the enemy after stubborn opposition: its church had been desecrated and its walls thrown down: the rebels held it, pompously paraded its streets, and publicly abused its inhabitants: its great chief, Derby, had suffered martyrdom in the cause: one of its duly elected representatives had been

debarred from attending the House of Parliament for his loyalty: many of its neighbouring gentry had been reduced to poverty, and the property of loyal subjects and suspects had been confiscated: yet it remained malignant still, and, having sown in tears, it expected to reap with joy at the restoration.

Although the king had been crowned in London with the honours of a conquering hero, there never yet happened anything that pleased everybody, and there were those who, in the midst of national joy, threatened the life of the king and the safety of the realm. These were religious zealots, who feared the Catholicism of the sovereign, and who deemed it a sacred duty, if not privilege, to destroy everything that had a Papal connection. The secret designs of the extreme Puritan party of Lancashire and the North were feared, and executions of plots daily expected. The extraordinary methods adopted to find out plotters by those in the neighbourhood of Wigan are almost incredible. Though the spy system be despicable, there are emergencies in which it is necessary; but the necessity for perjury can never arise, and yet the chiefs of the neighbourhood in the early reign of Charles II. offered large and tempting bribes to respectable men of needy circumstances to perjure themselves against suspected persons of influence. the justices of the peace for the county, Nicholas Mosely, invited a working man to have a glass of beer with him in Manchester, and then divulged to him that he could have a thousand pounds to bear false witness in the service of the king. His refusal to comply brought on him all the vengeance of the justice, who threatened to have him hanged. He was given in charge and accused of being a party to a People more readily believed the justice than the poor working man, who was thrown into the dungeon and carried from prison to prison, and finally tried at Lancaster Assizes, after repeated proffers of the previous bribes. remanded, and, after long suffering, released, and, unfortunately for him, came to Wigan, where his old adversary, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh, set eyes on him, and enticed him into a public-house. Sir Roger here treated him to no social cup, but accused him of having in his possession letters of conspiracy. The poor man turned out his pockets, and opened the seams of his clothes; but, whether from some private malice or conviction, Sir Roger would not believe him, but requested six or seven of his men to secure him and strip every rag from his body, which was instantly done, the men being paid for this barbarous service by 20s. which were found in the prisoner's pockets. No document was found, but Sir Roger kept him in Wigan prison for fourteen days without any thought of the existence of a Magna Charta. There he refused to take the oath of allegiance at the hands of Sir Roger, who immediately sent him to the common jail at Lancaster, where he lay all that winter in a cold room and damp bed, was remanded at the Spring Assizes, and acquitted in autumn.—(" Evan Price's Narrative").

Suffering, valour, and loyalty of one generation bring honour to succeeding ones. The king now held his own again, refugees and exiles came forth from their lurking places, and commercial confidence was restored. Such services as Wigan had rendered were worthy of recognition. If the claims of individuals were great, surely the claims of an ancient and loyal borough were greater still. Honours were showered on those who had suffered, although too many who ought to have been honoured had their hopes indefinitely deferred by the fallibility of human government and oversights consequent on the multitude of claimants. Estates and liberties were restored, ancient privileges that had been cancelled were renewed, and Wigan came in for its share of well-merited honour and reward. The loyal, debased, but not disgraced, head of the malignant borough was raised from the dust, and the joys of special honours at the king's own hand obliterated the sorrowful memories of former martyrdom and temporary degradation. All former rights and privileges were restored and augmented. The Royalist member for Wigan, Sir Orlando Bridgman, had previously been created a baronet on the 7th June, 1660, for his manly adherence to the martyr king and the Stuart cause as well as for his attainments as a scholar and ability as a lawyer.

Charles II., petitioned by the Wigan burgesses, was not allowed to forget or overlook the "malignancy" of the ancient borough, so he granted it a special charter, and thereby acknowledged his indebtedness to it. Like all the other charters, there is a long preamble in it, reciting the liberties, franchises, privileges, and immunities to which the town had been entitled from time immemorial, and showing that sufficient evidence had been given to prove it to have been a body corporate, consisting of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, who had at his accession formally besought the gracious favour of the king, after reciting their services to the Crown in the late time of trouble, to exhibit and extend to them his royal countenance and munificence. Wigan congratulated the king on acquiring his regal rights, and by the petition prayed that the town in turn might have its charters confirmed, and, after learning the history of the town, the king willingly granted their prayers, with additional honours, in the fourteenth year of his reign (1663). The charter contains a pleasing expression of good wishes towards the borough and an acknowledgment of the seasonable services rendered to his serene father of blessed memory, and a desire to foster the affection and fidelity of the ancient borough. The liberties that had been purchased or granted in former reigns, immunities and exemptions that were burdensome to other towns, local government, fairs, markets, and feasts, with their contingent customs, franchises of the burgesses, and guilds of the town were confirmed and granted without being in any wise annihilated, changed, or diminished. Such is the nature of the long legal preamble, and then follow particulars of the mayor, recorder, aldermen, bailiffs, common clerk, and all other officers and burgesses, and the oaths to be taken by each. All officers and even burgesses had to take, before the proper authorities, the oaths of obedience and supremacy upon the sacred holy Gospel. No person could hold a municipal office unless he were a member of the Church of England. It was necessary that the Recorder should be a discreet man, learned in the laws of England, that he should take the oaths before the mayor and not less than three aldermen, and that, after he was once approved of and installed in office, he could not be removed during his natural life, unless for what the majority of the Corporation believed to be bad behaviour. So also the town clerk held his office.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh, was the representative for Wigan during twelve different Parliaments, having in that time had thirteen different colleagues. During this long period of 52 years he was seven several times Mayor of Wigan, viz., in 1661, 1679, 1684, 1698, 1703, 1719, and 1729. During that time no person held the office of mayoralty for two successive years, but several were re-appointed after an interval of some years, among whom was the Earl of Barrymore for 1725 and 1734. office of bailiff, like the mayoralty, was held for one year, two bailiffs being appointed with the mayor. The chief Acts passed by the Parliaments in which Sir Roger sat were the Declaration of Indulgence, Declaration of Rights in the reign of James, the Act of Settlement in William's reign, and the occasional Conformity Bill in Anne's reign. He entered Parliament when the nation still settled their disputes in the field, and left it when the Whigs and Tories fought their battles on the floor of He was member when England and Scotland were locked in deadly strife; but he lived to see the two kingdoms amicably united. Wars in Scotland, England, and France had given place to a quiet and steady trade, prosperity being accompanied by the rapid growth of the influence of an opulent middle class. This man of honour and famous family was mayor when the new charter was granted to Wigan. By this charter "our beloved Roger Bradshaigh, Knight, now mayor of our borough of Wigan," is to remain mayor during the accustomed time of holding that office. When he was Mayor on this occasion (1663) Jeffrey Shackerley and Lord Ancrum were members for the borough. Richard Pennington was recorder; Miles Turner and Thomas Houghton were bailiffs. William Daniel, Joseph Rigby, Nicholas Pennington, Ambrose Jolley, James Molineux, Robert Baron, William Glover, Gerard Bancks, Edward Sumpner, Richard Markland, and Matthew Markland were aldermen, each of whom had also been, or lived to be, mayor and bailiff; and John Anderton was The mayor was appointed annually from the list of aldermen, before whom (or not less than three of whom) and the bailiffs he took his oaths. He and his predecessors were appointed justices of the peace for the borough, and the mayor for the time being a justice of the peace for the county. A justice of the peace for the county was specially and strictly prohibited from entering the borough or its precincts to do anything which the justices of the peace of the borough were, by virtue of the charter, entitled or required to do.

All the old rights and privileges, which were originally granted to the rector, were given to the Corporation in connection with the annual three days' fair, beginning on the 16th July, unless that were Sunday, in which case it should begin on Monday, the 17th. The town was in no wise to be taxed, rented, or rated for the privileges and emoluments of the fair. Foreigners or strangers had to pay their Stallage, peccage, fines, amerciaments, and profits were to go for the use, benefit, and advantage of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses. A new source of profit was now first granted by charter. In this charter it is called the Court of Pie Powder, and in the following one the Piedpowder Court. This Court is now, like many other old institutions, defunct, but nevertheless was a useful and profitable one in its Not only Wigan, but English crowds are remarkable for their general good behaviour. They are often noisy and excited, but the excitement is generally kept within the bounds of good-natured "chaff." Still there are exceptions to all rules, especially when the crowds are composed of strangers slightly inebriated. Even at fairs of the present day the Corporation finds it necessary to warn the unwary public to beware of "pickpockets and bad money." Such visitors have always been the concomitants of Wigan fairs. Visitors to the fairs were not all honest tradesmen who came to the market to buy or sell, but many came to get money by "hook or by crook." Knaves, cheats, and vagabonds lived by their sleight-of-hand or wit at these fairs. Moreover, many litigations arose amongst honest men about their mercantile transactions, and it was to settle all such disputes and to punish "fair" rogues that the Court of Pie Powder was instituted. The justices had the power of settling all disputes, of inflicting and appropriating fines, at fair times. The name Piedpowder is of Norman-French origin, from pied, a foot, and pouldreux, powdery, and thus originated from the fact that the litigants, being for the most part from the country, had generally very dirty feet.

A new and special honour was conferred on the town in recognition of its valuable services during the late turbulent times. The mayor, the representative of town, was from henceforth and for ever to be allowed to have carried before him, as a special mayoral distinction, a sword inscribed or adorned with the royal arms. This could be carried in or about the whole borough or its precincts at the pleasure of the mayor. One of the present municipal insignia is a handsome cross-hilted two-edged sword, which, judging from its massive size, might have been intended for a Goliath. It is of unknown date, but may not unlikely have been acquired by the Corporation at this period. When not in processional use it is

carefully locked in the strong room of the Corporation buildings, and protected in a velvet and gilt-mounted scabbard, emblazoned with the arms of Great Britain and the motto—Dieu et mon droit.

By this new charter the liberties of the inhabitants were extended, the liberties of the burgesses confirmed and enlarged, and the honours of the Corporation increased. Liberty was given to the Corporation to buy or sell property with public money, to the extent of £50 a year. In a new country, such as in most parts of America, the prosperity of public institutions can be assured by a wise foresight, so that the necessity of precarious, but praiseworthy methods of upholding large institutions by voluntary contributions is debarred. Where towns are proposed to be built in the States and Colonies plans are drawn up, and different parts of the prospective city set apart for the endowment for scholastic or charitable purposes. country like England this is a pecuniary impossibility, yet opportunities often occur when Corporations, as well as individuals, may make valuable speculative investments. If a town can wisely and profitably invest its money, it is right and proper to do Legal power was given to Wigan, with this end in view, to buy up manors, messuages, tenements, pastures, feedings, boscages, sub-boscages, rectories, tithes, revenues, or other hereditaments, not only in Wigan or England, but any part of the British dominions.

As this is a complete, interesting, and important charter, it is subjoined in full:—

14to. CAROLI II.

Carolus Secundus Dei gratia Angliæ Scotiæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex fidei defensor et cætera Omnibus ad quos præsentes Literæ pervenerint Salutem Cum nobis satis constat quod Villa sive Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastrise est antiquus Burgus quodque Inhabitantes et Burgenses Villse sive Burgi illius sunt et a tempore cujus contrarii memoria hominis non existit fuerunt unum Corpus Corporatum per nomen Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastrise quodque ipsi et prædecessores sui per idem nomen diversis Libertatibus franchesiis privilegiis et immunitatibus temporibus retroactis habuerunt tenuerunt et gavisi fuerunt et adhuc habent tenent et gaudent. Cumque delicti Subditi nostri modo Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti nobis humillime supplicaverunt, quatenus nos, eisdem Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus gratiam et munificentiam nostram Regiam tam in ratificacione et confirmacione Corporis Corporati prædicti et antiquorum libertatum et privilegiorum ejusdem quam in concessione taliorum aliorum libertatum et privilegiorum qualiorum pro bono publico et meliori regimine Burgi illius nobis melius videbitur expediri, gratiose exhibere et extendere volumus. Sciatis igitur quod nos, meliorem rationem Burgi prædicti et prosperam Conditicionem populi nostri ibidem gratiose affectantes ac multa et magna Servicia per Burgum illum Serenissimo Patri nostro beata memoria in nuperrimis temporibus maxime calamitosis tam tempestive impensa necnon continuatam fidem et promptum admodum affectum Inhabitantium ejusdem Burgi erga nos et pro Servitio nostro recolligentes et benigne acceptantes, de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris voluimus ordinavimus concessimus et confirmavimus ac per Præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus ordinamus concedimus et confirmavimus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis Corpus Corporatum prædictum ac omnes et omnimodas libertates liberas consuetudines franchesias immunitates exempciones quietantias et

Jurisdictiones Burgi illius quascunque necnon omnia et singula eadem et hujusmodi terras tenementa nundinas mercata ferias vendiciones omnium Catallorum quoruncunque Consuetudines libertates privilegia franchesias immunitates quietancias exemptiones Jurisdictiones et Hæreditamenta quæcunque quæ Burgenses Villæ sive Burgi de Wigan prædicti aut quæ Burgenses et Communitas Villæ sive Burgi de Wigan prædicti aut que Major Ballivi et Burgenses Villæ sive Burgi de Wigan prædicti et prædecessores sui quicunque quibuscunque nominibus censabantur seu vocabantur vel per quodcunque nomen vel quamcunque incorporationem vel prætextum cujuscunque incorporationis antehac incorporati fuerunt legitime habuerunt tenuerunt usi vel gavisi fuerunt aut habere tenere uti vel gaudere debuerunt aut habuit tenuit usus vel gavisus fuit aut habere tenere uti vel gaudere debuit aut debuerunt ratione seu prætextu aliquarum Chartarum aut Literarum Patentium per nos aut per aliquem progenitorum nostrorum vel alicujus alterius Personse sive aliquarum aliarum personarum quarumcunque quo modo antehac factarum confirmatarum vel concessarum seu quocunque alio legali modo Jure Consuetudine usu præscripto sive titulo antehac legitime usitata habita gavisa aut consueta per Præsentes minime annihilata mutata sive diminuta. Et quod licitum sit et erit præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis habere tenere exercere uti et gaudere omnibus et omnimodis hujusmodi libertatibus liberis consuetudinibus franchesiis Immunitatibus exemptionibus Jurisdictionibus et cæteris præmissis prædictis superius per præsentes in forma prædicta confirmatis in tam amplissimo modo et forma et ad omnia intenta et proposita quali temporibus retroactis habuerunt tenuerunt usi vel gavisi fuerunt seu habere tenere uti vel gaudere debuerunt. Et pro meliori Execucione et exercitio inde assignavimus nominavimus constitutimus et confirmavimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et confirmamus delictum nostrum Rogerum Bradshaigh Millitem, modo Majorem Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti, fore et continuare Majorem Burgi illius pro et durante præscripto tempore continuacionis suæ in officio illo secundum usum et consuetudinem infra Burgum illum in ea parte temporibus retroactis usitatas Assignavimus etiam nominavimus constituimus et confirmavimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et confirmamus delictum Subditum nostrum Ricardum Pennington Armigerum, modo Recordatorem Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti, fore et continuare Recordatorem ejusdem Burgi juxta usum et consuetudinem infra Burgum illum temporibus retroactis in ea parte usitatas. Ac similiter assignamus nominamus constituimus et confirmamus delictos Subditos nostros Willhelmum Daniell Armigerum Josephum Rigby Armigerum Nicholaum Pennington Generosum Jacobum Mollineux Generosum Ambrosium Jolly Generosum Robertum Baron Generosum Willhelmum Glover Generosum Gerardum Banck Generosum Edwardum Sompner Generosum Ricardum Markland Generosum et Matthæum Markland Generosum, modo Aldermannos Burgi illius, fore et continuare Aldermannos ejusdem Burgi ac delictos Subditos nostros Milonem Turner et Thomam Houghton, modo Ballivos Burgi prædicti, fore et continuare Ballivos Burgi illius et delictum Subditum nostrum Johannem Anderton, Communem Clericum ejusdem Burgi, fore et continuare Communem Clericum Burgi illius. omnes et quamlibet Personam et Personas, modo Burgenses Burgi illius, fore et continuare Burgenses ejusdem Burgi, in talibus modo et forma ac pro tali tempore et temporibus respective qualibus secundum usum aut usus consuetos aut consuetudines infra Burgum illum in ea parte respective temporibus retroactis usitate extitissent vel eorum aliquis extitisset et in officiis sive locis illis et eorum quolibet sive aliquo respective continuare usi fuissent vel eorum aliquis usus fuisset Et Ulterius Volumus quod omnes et quilibet officiarius et officiarii Burgi prædicti modo nominati sive constituti aut in posterum nominandi et constituendi Sacramenta sua Corporalia pro fideli execucione separalium officiorum sive locorum suorum respective infra Burgum illum præstabunt et præstabit in talibus modo et forma et coram talibus persona et personis qualibus temporibus retroactis juxta consuetudinem Burgi illius hujusmodi Sacramenta præstare consueverint vel consueverit nisi in talibus casu et casibus tantum qualibus per præsentes aliter ordinatum et constitutum existit : Et Ulterius Volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris ordinamus et firmiter injungendo præcipimus quod Major

Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti ac Recordator Aldermani Communis Clericus et omnes alii officiarii et ministri Burgi illius et eorum deputati necnon omnes Justiciarii ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum illum conservandum in aut per has Literas nostras patentes nominati constituti sive confirmati aut imposterum virtute inde seu aliter secundum consuetudinem Burgi prædicti nominandi eligendi sive constituendi, antequam ipsi ad execucionem sive exercitium officii seu officiorum loci vel Locorum cui vel quibus, sicut præfertur, respective nominati constituti sive confirmati modo existunt aut imposterum debitè et secundum veram intencionem præsentium nominati electi sive constituti fuerunt, admittantur seu eorum aliquis admittatur aut aliqualiter in ea parte se intromittant vel intromittat tam Sacramentum Coporale Anglice communiter vocatum (the Oath of Obedience) quam Sacramentum Corporale communiter vocatum (the Oath of Supremacy) super Sacro sancto Evangelio præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit coram tali persona sive talibus personis qualibus et quæ ad hujusmodi Sacramenta dandum et præstandum per Legem et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Anglise ad presentanea appanotuantur et designantur aut imposterum appanotuatse et designatse fuerint. Proviso semper et volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus ordinamus et declaramus quod nos Hæredes et Successores nostri de tempore in tempus quandoquoties locus sive officium Recordatoris Burgi prædicti per mortem prædicti Ricardi Pennington seu alicujus alijus Recordatoris ejusdem Burgi imposterum nominandi et constituendi vel aliter quovismodo vacatum foret et deveniret tunc et toties ad humilem petitionem Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentium nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris in ea parte exhibendam assignabimus nominabimus et constituemus unum alium discretum virum in Legibus Anglise eruditum fore et esse Recordatorem ejusdem Burgi quique idem vir eruditus sic nominatus et constitutus et de tempore in tempus sic nominandus et constituendus in officium illud Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro Sancto Evangelio coram Majore Burgi illius pro tempore existente in Presentia Aldermannorum ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentium, vel trium eorum ad minus, ad officium illud bene et fideliter in omnibus officio illo tangentibus exequendum præstabit. Et Quod post tale Sacramentum sic præstitum quilibet talis vir eruditus in officium illud sic nominatus et constitutus aut nominandus et constituendus sit et erit Recordator Burgi prædicti pro et durante vita sua naturali respective (nisi interim per mala gestura facta in officio illo vel aliqua alia rationabili causa abinde per Majorem Ballivos et Burgenses Burgi prædicti, pro tempore existentes, vel Majorem partem eorum, quorum Majorem pro tempore existentem unum esse volumus, debito modo amovetur). Et Ulterius volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris Concedimus ordinamus et declaramus quod nos Hæredes et Successores nostri de tempore in tempus quando et quoties locus sive officium Communis Clerici Burgi prædicti per mortem sive debitam amoveacionem prædicti Johannis Anderton seu alicujus aliius Communis Clerici ejusdem Burgi imposterum nominandi et constituendi seu aliter quovismodo vacuum fore contigerit tunc et toties ad humilem peticionem Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi illius pro tempore existentium nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris in ea parte exhibendam assignabimus nominabimus et constituemus unum alium discretum virum fore et esse Communem Clericum ejusdem Burgi continuandum in officio suo durante vita sua naturali nisi abinde debito modo, ut præfertur, amotus fuerit. Et volumus quod omnis et quælibet persona et persona ad hujusmodi officium Communis Clerici Burgi prædicti sic nominatæ et constitutæ nominandæ et constituendæ Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro Sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore Burgi illius pro tempore existente in præsentis Aldermanorum ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentium, vel trium eorum ad minus, ad officium illud bene et fideliter in omnibus officio illo tangentibus exequendum præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit antequam ad officium illud exequendum respective admittantur seu eorum aliquis admittatur. Et quod ab et post tale Sacramento sic præstito quælibet talis persona in officium illud sic nominata et constituta nominanda et constituenda sit et erit communis Clericus Burgi prædicti pro et durante vita sua naturali respective nisi interim, per mala gesta acta sua in officio illo aut aliqua alia rationabili causa, abinde per Majorem Ballivos et Burgenses Burgi predicti pro tempore existentes vel majorem partem eorum (quorum Majorem ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentem unum esse volumus) debito modo, ut præfertur, amovetur. Quibusque dictis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus et majori parti eroum (quorum Majorem ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentem unum esse volumus) plenam potestatem et authoritatem ad omnes et quemlibet hujusmodi Recordatorem et Recordatores Communem Clericum et Communes Clericos Burgi illius imposterum in forma predicta nominatos et constitutos aut nominandos et constituendos pro causa et causis prædictis ab officio et officiis suis prædictis aut eroum aliquo respective amovendi damus et concedimus per præsentes. Cuique dicto Majori Burgi prædicti pro tempore existenti ad separalia Sacramenta prædicta omnibus et cuilibet Recordatori et Recordatoribus Communi Clerico et Communibus Clericis Burgi prædicti imposterum in forma prædicta nominatis et constitutis aut nominandis et constituendis in præsentia Aldermanorum Burgi illius pro tempore existentium seu aliquorum trium vel plurium eroum de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et authoritatem pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus per presentes aliquo in presentibus contento seu aliquo usu consuetudine sive prescriptione infra Burgum predictum temporibus retroactis habitis vel usitatis in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante. Et Ultarius, in tesseram favoris nostri Burgo de Wigan prædicto pro fidelitate sua nobis et Percharissimo Patri nostro per totam flagitiosam illam Subditorum hujus Regni nostri nuperam defeccionem constanter manifesta, de uberiori Gratia nostra speciali et ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti plenam potestatem et authoritatem et quod de cætero imperpetuum licitum sit et erit eisdem Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus ejusdem Burgi et Successoribus suis habere uti et portari causare coram Majore Burgi illius pro tempore existente unum gladium armis nostris Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum inscriptum sive ornatum in et per totum Burgum illum et limites et præcinctus ejusdem ad libitum Majoris ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentis. Concessimus insuper pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentes præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis quod Modernus Major Burgi illius ac ultimus de prædecessoribus suis in officio illo pro et durante tempore continuacionis ipsius moderni Majoris ejusdem Burgi in officio suo Majoris Burgi illius et quilibet alius Major Burgi illius pro tempore existens pro et durante tempore continuacionis suæ in officio illo respective et quilibet ultimus prædecessor cujuslibet hujusmodi Majoris per spatium unius anni ab et post exitum et decessum suum ab officio Majoris ejusdem Burgi respective sint et erint et quilibet eorum sit et erit Justiciarii nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum prædictum libertates et præcinctus ejusdem custodiendum et conservandum et custodiri et conservari faciendum et ad omnia Statuta et ordinaciones pro bono pacis nostræ Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ac pro preservacione ejusdem et pro quieto Regimine et gubernacione populi nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum edita et edenda in omnibus suis Articulis infra Burgum prædictum Libertates et Præcinctus ejusdem juxta vim formam et effectum eorundem custodiendum et custodiri faciendum. Ac ad omnes illos quos contra formam et effectum ordinacionum et statutorum prædictorum aut eorum alicujus iu Burgo illo et Præcinctibus ejusdem delinquentes invenerint castigandum et puniendum per et secundum formam ordinacionum et Statutorum illorum fuerit faciendum. Necnon ad omnia alia secundum Leges et Statua hujus Regni nostri Anglise infra Burgum illum Limites et Præcinctus ejusdem faciendum et inquirendum quæ coram aliquibus Justiciariis sive custodibus pacis nostræ Hæredum vell Successorum nostrorum in aliquo Comitatu Regni nostri Angliæ ut Justiciarii pacis fieri aut inquiri poterint aut debent. Ita tamen quod ad determinationem alicujus prodicionis misprisionis proditionis murderii seu felonize vel alicujus alterius materize tangentis amissionem vitæ vel membrorum infra Burgum prædictum limites et præcinctus ejusdem absque Speciali mandato nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quoquo modo non procedant. Et ulterius pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris firmiter injungendo precipimus et per presentes prohibemus quod Justiciarii pacis nostres

Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum pro Comitatu nostro Lancastrise modo constituti seu imposterum constituendi infra Burgum præductum aut Præcinctus ejusdem ad aliquid ibidem faciendum quod Justiciarii pacis nostræ Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum pro Burgo illo virtute harum literarum nostrarum patentium ibedem facere possuerint aut debent nullo modo ingrediantur nec se in aliquo intromittant seu intromittere præsumant. Et ulterius volumus et per præsentes ordinamus et constituimus quod modernus Major Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et ultimus prædecessor suus in officio illo ac quilibet alius Major Burgi illius et ultimus prædecessor cujuslibet hujusmodi Majoris in eodem officio respective pro tempore existentis, antequam ipsi ad execucionem officii Justiciarii pacis infra Burgum illum admittantur seu eorum aliquis admittatur, Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio ad officium Justiciarii pacis infra eundem Burgum Limites et Pracinctus ejusdem in omnibus et per omnia officio illo tangentia et fideliter exequendum, necnon Juramenta in ea parte per leges et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Anglise provisa a Justiciariis pacis prestari requisita, coram Aldermanis et Ballivis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus sue aliquibus tribus eorum præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit. Quibusque dictis Aldermanis et Ballivis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus et aliquibus tribus eorum ad Sacramenta et Juramenta prædicta in forma prædicta de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam et authoritatem damus et concedimus per presentes. Et ulterius volumus ac per presentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis quod modernus Major Burgi illius et quilibet alius Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens imposterum nominandus et eligendus respective sit et erit sint et erint Justiciarii nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum in Comitatu nostro Lancastrize custodiendum et conservandum et ad omnia alia faciendum exequendum et confirmandum que per Justiciarios pacis nostre Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum infra eundem Comitatum per Leges et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Angliæ modo edita vel imposterum edenda fieri exequi aut performari possint aut debent. Et modernum Majorem Burgi prædicti ac omnes et quemlibet Majorem et Majores Burgi illius pro tempore existentes imposterum nominandos et elegendos Justiciarium et Justiciarios nostros Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ prædicto custodiendum et conservandum et ad omnia alia prædicta quæ per Justiciarios pacis infra Comitatum illum, ut præfertur, fieri et exequi possint aut debent faciendum et exequendum facimus ordinamus et constituimus ac per præsentes. Et ulterius volumus quod quilibet hujusmodi Major Burgi prædicti pro tempore existens, antequam ipse ad execucionem officii Justiciarii pacis infra Comitatum nostrum Lancastrise predictum admittatur, Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro Sancto Dei Evangelio ad officium illud bene et fideliter exequendum necnon Juramenta in ea parte per Leges et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Anglise provisa a Justiciariis pacem preservandis præstabit in talibus modo et forma qualibus alii Justiciarii pacis nostræ Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum pro eodem Comitatu modo constituti vel imposterum constituendi Sacramenta et Juramenta sua in ea parte præstabunt seu præstare debent. Et ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui de cætero imperpetuum habeant teneant et custodiant ac habere tenere et custodire valeant et possint annuatim in Villa sive Burgo de Wigan prædicto unam Feriam incipiendam in et super decimum sextum diem Julii, si non sit dies Dominicus, et, si ita sit, tunc in Die proximo sequente, ac per totum hujusmodi diem inceptionis inde prædictum et per duos dies proximos sequentes annuatim custodiendam et duraturam. Una Cum Curia Pedis-pulverizati tempore eju⁸dem feriæ ac simul cum Stallagio piccagio finibus amerciamentis et omnibus aliis profituis commoditatibus et emolumentis quibuscunque hujusmodi ferise et Curise Pedis-pulverizati spectantibus pertinentibus accidentibus emergentibus sive contingentibus ac cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi feriam spectantibus sive pertinentibus ad proprium opus et usum commodum et commoditatem dictorum Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium

Burgi prædicti et Successorum suorum pro tempore existentium imperpetuum capiendis accipiendis et custodiendis et hæc absque compositionem vel aliquod aluid nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris pro inde reddendo solvendo vel faciendo ac absque molestacione perturbatione gravamine seu contradictione nostri Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum aut aliquorum Vicecomitum Escaetorum Ballivorum Officiariorum sive Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quorumque ac absque alio Warranto Breve vel præcepto a nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris imposterum in hac parte procurandis vel obtinendis dum tamen feria illa non sit ad nocumentum vicinariarum feriarum. Ac ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris concessimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus et licentiam specialem liberamque et lictam facultatem potestatem et authoritatem damus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis habendi recipiendi et perquirendi sibi et Successoribus suis imperpetuum Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones et alia hæreditamenta quæcunque infra Regnum nostrum Angliæ seu alibi infra Dominia nostra tam de nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris quam de aliqua alia persona sive aliquibus aliis personis quibuscunque dummodo eadem Muneria Messuagia Terræ Tenementa Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Bosci Subbosci Rectoriæ Decimæ redditus revenciones servitia et alia Hæreditamenta sic, ut præfertur, per ipsos habenda recipienda, et perquirenda, non excedunt in toto clarum annualem valorem quinquaginta librarum per Annum ultra omnia onera et reprisas Statutis de terris et tenementis ad Manus mortuas non ponendis aut aliquo alio Statuto actu ordinatione vel provisione antehac habitis factis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante. Damus etiam ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus cuicunque Subdito nostro et quibuscunque Subditis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum licentiam specialem liberamque et licitam potestatem et facultatem et authoritatem quod ipsi et eorum aliquis sive aliqui Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones servitia et alia hæreditamenta quæcunque præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis dare vendere concedere legare vel alienare possint et valeant. Ita tamen quod omnia prædicta Maneria Messuagia Terræ Tenementa Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Bosci Subbosci Rectoriæ Decimæ redditius revenciones servitia et alia hæreditamenta eisdem Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi illius et Successroribus suis virtute præsentium sic, ut præfertur, danda concedenda leganda vel alienanda non excedunt in toto clarum annualem redditum sive valorem Quinquaginta Librarum per annum ultra omnia onera et reprisas Statutis de terris et tenementis ad manus mortuas non ponendis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisis in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante Habendum Tenendum et Gaudendum omnia et singula præmissa prædicta superius per præsentes data concessa sive confirmata aut mencionata fore data concessa sive confirmata præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis imperpetuum. Ac Reddendum et Solvendum pro inde nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris annuatim tot tanta talia eadem et hujusmodi redditus Servitia denariorum summas et demanda quæcunque quot quanta qualia et quæ pro cisdem seu corum aliqua vel aliquibus antehac reddi seu solvi consueverunt aut de Jure debuerunt. Quare volumus ac per præsentes firmiter injungendo præcipimus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris quod prædicti Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui teneant utantur et gaudeant ac habere tenere uti exercere et gaudere valeant et possint imperpetuum omnibus Libertatibus authoritatibus Jurisdictionibus consuetudinibus Concessionibus franchesiis quietanciis terris tenementis et Hæreditamentis prædictis ac omnibus bonis et catallis suis quibuscunque secundum tenorem formam et effectum harum literarum nostrarum patentium sine occasione molestacione vel impedimento nostro Hæredun vel Successorum nortrorum Justiciariorum Vicecomitum Escheatorum Ballivorum aut aliorum Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque. Nolentes quod iidem Major Ballivi et Burgenses aut Successores sui vel eorum aliquis vel aliqui racione præmissorum sive

eorum alicujus per nos Hæredes vel Successores nostros Justiciarios Vicecomites Escheatores Ballivos sive alios Ministros Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque occonentur molestentur vexentur seu graventur vel in aliquo perturbentur. Volentes etiam ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris mandantes et prescipientes tam Thesaurario Cancellario Barronibus Scaccarii nostri Westmonasteriensis ac aliis Justiciariis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum quam Atturnato et Sollicitatori nostro Generali pro tempore existentibus et eorum cuilibet et omnibus aliis Ministris et Officiariis nostris Haredum et Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque pro tempore existentibus quod nec ipsi nec eorum aliqui vel aliquis aliquid Breve sive Summonicionem de quo Warranto sive aliquid Breve Brevia vel Processus nostras quaecunque versus præfatum Majorem Ballivos et Burgenses Burgi predicti aut eorum aliquem vel aliquos pro aliquibus causis rebus materiis offensiis clameis et usurpationibus aut eorum aliquo per ipsos aut eorum aliquos attemptatis clameatis usitatis habitis factis sive usurpatis ante confeccionem harum literarum nostrarum patentium impetrantur prosequentur aut continuantur vel impetrari prosequi aut continuari faciant aut causant seu sorum aliquis facit aut causat. Volentes etiam quod iidem Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti vel eorum aliqui per aliquem vel aliquos Justiciarios Vicecomites Officiarios vel Ministros prædictos in aut pro debito seu clameo vel abusu aliquorum aliorum libertatum priviledgiorum franchesiarum aut jurisdictionum infra Burgum prædictum libertates limites et præcinctus ejusdem ante diem confeccionis harum literarum nostrarum patentium minime molestantur aut impediantur aut ad ea seu eorum aliquid vel aliqua respondere compellantur. Volumus etiam ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras patentes sub Magno Sigillo nostro Angliæ in debito modo factas et sigillatas absque finem seu feodum, magnum sive parvum, nobis in Hanoperio Cancellarize nostrze seu alibi ad usum nostrum proinde quoquo modo reddendo solvendo vel faciendo. Eo quod expressa mentio de mero valore annuo vel de certitudine præmissorum sive eorum alicujus aut de aliis donis sive concessibus per nos seu per aliquem progenitorum sive prædecessorum nostrorum præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti ante hæc tempora factis in præsentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo Statuto Actu Ordinaceone Provisione Proclamacione sive Restriccione in contrarium inde antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante. In Cujus Rei Testimonium has Literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes. Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium decimo sexto die Maii anno Regni nostri decimo quarto.

Howard.

Per Breve de Privato Sigillo.—(Sine Fine vel Feodo.)

14TH CHARLES II.

Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these present Letters shall come greeting: Whereas it sufficiently appears to us that our Vill or Borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster is an ancient borough and that the inhabitants and burgesses of that vill or borough are and from time to time, whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, have been one body corporate by the name of Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, and that they and their predecessors by the same name in times past have had, held, and enjoyed, and do yet have, hold, and enjoy diverse liberties, franchises, privileges, and immunities. And whereas our beloved subjects, the now mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, have most humbly besought us, so far as we may be graciously willing to exhibit and extend to the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, our royal favour and munificence, as well in the ratification and confirmation of the body corporate aforesaid, and the ancient liberties and privileges thereof, as in granting such other liberties and privileges as to us shall seem more expedient for the public good and better government of that borough. Know ye therefore that we, graciously desiring the improvement of the borough aforesaid, and the prosperous

condition of our people there, and revising and taking in good part the many and great services so seasonably bestowed by that borough to our Most Serene Father of blessed memory in the late most calamitous times, and also the continued fidelity and exceeding willing affection of the inhabitants of the same borough towards us and for our service, of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have willed, ordained, granted, and confirmed, and by these presents for ourselves, our heirs, and successors do will, ordain, grant, and confirm to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, the aforesaid body corporate, and all manner of liberties, free customs, franchises, immunities, exemptions, easements, and jurisdictions of that borough whateoever, and all and singular the same and such like lands, tenements, fairs, markets, feast-days, sales of chattels whatsoever, customs, liberties, privileges, franchises, immunities, quittances, exemptions, jurisdictions, and hereditaments whatsoever which the burgesses of the vill or borough of Wigan aforesaid, or which the burgesses and community of the vill or borough of Wigan aforesaid, or which the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the vill or borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their predecessors whomsoever, by whatsoever names they were rated or called, or by whatsoever name or incorporation or pretence of whatsoever incorporation they have heretofore been incorporated, lawfully had, held, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have, hold, use, or enjoy, or it hath, had, held, used, or enjoyed, or it or they ought to have, hold, use, or enjoy by reason or pretence of any charters or letters patent by us or any of our progenitors, or any other person or any other persons whomsoever in anywise heretofore made, confirmed, or granted, or by whatsoever other lawful means, right, custom, use, prescription, or title heretofore lawfully used, had, or enjoyed, or accustomed, by these presents in no wise annihilated, changed, or diminished; and that it may and shall be lawful to and for the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their successors, to have, hold, exercise, use, and enjoy all and all manner of this sort of liberties, free customs, franchises, immunities, exemptions, jurisdictions, and other the premises aforesaid above, by these presents in form aforesaid, confirmed in such ample manner and form to all intents and purposes, as in times past they have, had, held, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have, hold, use, or enjoy. And for the better execution and exercise thereof we have appointed, nominated, constituted, and confirmed, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do appoint, nominate, constitute, and confirm our beloved Roger Bradshaigh, Knight, now the mayor of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, to be and continue mayor of that borough for and during the accustomed time of his continuing in that office according to the use and custom within that borough in that behalf in times past accustomed. We have also appointed, nominated, constituted, and confirmed, and by these presents for us and our heirs and successors do appoint, nominate, constitute, and confirm our beloved subject, Richard Pennington, Esquire, now the recorder of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, to be and continue recorder of the same borough according to the use and custom within that borough in times past in that behalf accustomed. And in like manner we do appoint, nominate, constitute, and confirm our beloved subjects, William Daniel, Esquire, Joseph Rigby, Esquire, Nicholas Pennington, Gentleman, James Molyneux, Gentleman, Ambrose Jolly, Gentleman, Robert Baron, Gentleman, William Glover, Gentleman, Gerard Banck, Gentleman, Edward Sommer. Gentleman, Richard Markland, Gentleman, and Matthew Markland, Gentleman, now the aldermen of that borough, to be and continue aldermen of the same borough; and our beloved subjects, Miles Turner and Thomas Houghton, now the bailiffs of the borough aforesaid, to be and continue bailiffs of that borough; and our beloved subject, John Anderton, now the common clerk of the same borough, to be and continue common clerk of that borough. And also all and whatsoever person and persons, now burgesses of that borough, to be and continue burgesses of the same borough in such manner and form and for such time and times respectively, as according to the use or uses or customs within that borough in that behalf respectively in usual times past they usually have been, or any of them hath been in those offices or places and whatsoever, or any of them respectively, they may have used, or any of them may have used to continue. And we are further willing that all and whatsoever

officer or officers of the borough aforesaid, now nominated or constituted, or hereafter to be nominated and constituted, shall take their corporal oaths for the faithful execution of their several offices or places respectively within that borough in such manner and form, and before such person and persons, as in times past they have been accustomed, or he hath been accustomed, to take the caths of this sort according to the custom of that borough, except in such case and cases only as by these presents it is otherwise ordained and constituted. And we are further willing, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors we do ordain and by firmly enjoining do command that the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and the recorder, aldermen, and common clerk, and all other officers and ministers of that borough, and their deputies, and also all justices nominated, appointed, or confirmed in or by these, our letters patent, or hereafter, by virtue thereof, or otherwise, according to the custom of the borough aforesaid, to be nominated, elected, or appointed to keep the peace of us and our successors within that borough, before that they may be admitted or any of them may be admitted, or in anywise in that behalf they may introduce themselves or he may introduce himself to the execution or exercise of the office or offices, place or places, to which they now are, as is aforesaid, respectively nominated, constituted, or confirmed, or hereafter shall be duly and according to the true intention of these presents nominated, elected, or constituted, shall take, and each of them shall take as well, the corporal oath in English commonly called The oath of obedience, as also the corporal oath commonly called The oath of supremacy, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel, before such person or before such persons as and who by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England are at present appointed and designed, or hereafter to be appointed and designed, to give and yield oaths of this sort. Provided always, and it is our will and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant, ordain, and declare, that we, our heirs and successors, from time to time, when and so often as the place or office of recorder of the borough aforesaid, by the death of the aforesaid Richard Pennington, or any other recorder of the same borough hereafter to be nominated and constituted, or otherwise howsoever may become or happen to be vacant; then and so often, at the humble petition of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid for the time being to us, our heirs and successors, in that behalf to be exhibited, we will appoint, nominate, and constitute one other discreet man learned in the laws of England to be recorder of the same borough, and which learned man so nominated and constituted, and from time to time to be so nominated and constituted into that office, shall take his corporal oath upon the Sacred Holy Gospel before the mayor of that borough for the time being, in the presence of the aldermen of the same borough for the time being, or three of them at the least, well and faithfully to execute that office in all things touching that office. And that after such oath so taken every such learned man into that office so nominated and constituted, or to be nominated or constituted, may be and shall be recorder of the borough aforesaid for and during his natural life respectively, unless in the meantime, for his bad behaviour in that office, or any other reasonable cause, he be from thence in due manner amoved by the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof it is our will that the mayor for the time being be one. And further it is our will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant, ordain, and declare that we, our heirs and successors, from time to time, when and as often as the place or office of common clerk of the borough aforesaid, by the death or due amoval of the aforesaid John Anderton or any other common clerk of the same borough hereafter to be nominated and constituted, or otherwise howsoever shall happen to be vacant; then and so often, at the humble petition of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough for the time being, to us, our heirs or successors, in that behalf to be exhibited, we will assign, nominate, and constitute one other discreet man to be common clerk of the same borough, to be continued in his office during his natural life, unless from thence in due manner, as aforesaid, he shall be amoved. And we are willing that all and every and each person and persons to this sort of office of common clerk of the borough aforesaid so nominated and constituted, or to be nominated or constituted, shall take and

each of them shall take their corporal oath upon the said Sacred Holy Gospel of God, before the mayor of that borough for the time being, in the presence of the aldermen of the same borough for the time being, or any three of them at the least, well and faithfully to execute that office in all things touching that office before that they may respectively be admitted or any of them be admitted to execute that office. And that from and after such oath so taken every such person to that office so nominated and constituted, or to be nominated and constituted, may be and shall be common clerk of the borough aforesaid for and during the term of his natural life respectively, unless in the mean time for his bad behaviour in that office or any other reasonable cause he be from thence in due manner as is aforesaid amoved by the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid for the time being or the greater part of them (of whom it is our will that the mayor for the time being be one). And to which said mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid for the time being and the greater part of them (whereof it is our will that the mayor of the said borough be one) we do give and grant by these presents full power and authority for the cause or causes aforesaid from their office or offices aforesaid, or any of them respectively, to amove all and every recorder and recorder's common clerk and common clerks of the borough aforesaid of this sort hereafter in form aforesaid nominated and constituted, or to be nominated or constituted. And also to which said mayor of the borough aforesaid, for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant by these presents full power and authority, in the presence of the aldermen of that borough for the time being, or any three or more of them, from time to time, to give and administer the several oaths aforesaid to all and every recorder and recorder's common clerk and common clerks of the borough aforesaid hereafter in form aforessid nominated and constituted, or to be nominated and constituted (anything in these presents contained, or any use, custom, or prescription within the borough aforesaid in times past had or used to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding). And further, as a token of our favour to the borough of Wigan aforesaid for its fidelity to us and our most dear father, constantly manifested throughout that late infamous revolt of the subjects of this our realm, of our more abundant special grace, and from certain knowledge and mere motion unto us, we have given and granted, and for us and our heirs and successors do give and grant, to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, full power and authority, and that for the time to come for ever it may and shall be lawful for the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the same borough and their successors to have, use, and cause to be carried before the mayor of that borough for the time being one sword inscribed or adorned with the arms of us and our heirs or successors in and throughout the whole borough and the limits and precincts thereof at the pleasure of the mayor for the time being. We have granted, moreover, for us, our heirs, and successors, by these presents, to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors that the present mayor of that borough and his last predecessor in that office for and during the time of the continuance of that present mayor of the same borough in his office of mayor of that borough, and every other mayor of that borough for the time being, for, and during the time of his continuance in that office respectively, and every last predecessor of every such mayor for the space of one year from and after his going out of and departure from the office of mayor of the same borough respectively, may and shall be and each of them may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve and cause to be kept and preserved the peace of us, our heirs, and successors within the borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, and to keep and cause to be kept in all their articles all the statutes and ordinances published or to be published for the good of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, and for the preservation thereof, and for the quiet rule and government of the people of us, our heirs, and successors within the borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, according to the power, form, and effect thereof, and to chastise and punish all those whom they shall find within that borough and the precincts thereof offending against the form and effect of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid, or any of them in such sort as it shall be

to be done according to the form of those ordinances and statutes. And also to do and inquire all other things within that borough, the limits and precincts thereof, according to the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England, which may or ought to be done or inquired before any justices or keepers of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors, in any county of our kingdom of England as justices of the peace. So nevertheless as that they do not in any manner proceed to the determination of any treason, misprison of treason, murder, felony, or any other matter touching to loss of life or limbs, within the borough aforesaid, the limits and precincts thereof, without the special command of us, our heirs, or successors. And we do further, for us, our heirs, and successors, by firmly injoining command and by these presents, prohibit that the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors, for our county of Lancaster now constituted, or hereafter to be constituted, do by no means enter, nor may in anywise introduce or presume to introduce themselves within the borough aforesaid or the precincts thereof to do anything there which the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors, for that borough may or ought to do there by virtue of these our letters patent. And further it is our will, and by these presents we do ordain and constitute, that the present mayor of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, and his last predecessor in that office, and every other mayor of that borough, and the last predecessor of every such mayor in the same office respectively for the time being, before that they may be admitted or any of them may be admitted to the execution of the office of justice of the peace within that borough, shall take and every of them shall take their corporal oath upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God before the aldermen and bailiffs of the borough for the time being, or any three of them, well and faithfully to execute the office of justice of the peace within the same borough, the limits and precincts thereof, in all things and through all things touching that office, and also the oaths by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England provided in that behalf required to be taken by justices of the peace. And to which aldermen and bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for the time being, and to any three of them, we do by these presents give and grant full power and authority from time to time to give and administer the sacraments and oaths aforesaid in form aforesaid. And further it is our will, and by these presents, for our heirs and successors, we do give and grant to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of Wigan aforesaid and their successors, that the present mayor of that borough and every other mayor of the same borough for the time being hereafter to be nominated and elected, may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, in our county of Lancaster, and to do, execute, and confirm all other things which by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England now made, or hereafter to be made, may or ought to be done, executed, or performed by the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors within the same county. And we do by these presents make, ordain, and constitute the present mayor of the borough aforesaid, and all and every other mayor and mayors of that borough for the time being, hereafter to be nominated and elected, justice and justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace for us, our heirs, and successors, within our county of Lancaster aforesaid, and to do and execute all other things aforesaid which may or ought to be done or executed by justices of the peace within that county as is aforesaid. And further it is our will that every such mayor of the borough aforesaid for the time being, before that he may be admitted to the execution of the office of justice of the peace within our county of Lancaster, shall take his corporal cath upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God well and faithfully to execute that office, and also the oaths by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England in that behalf provided to be taken by justices of the peace in such manner and form as other justices of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, for the same county, now constituted or hereafter to be constituted, shall take or ought to take their sacraments and oaths in that behalf. And further of our more abundant grace, and certain knowledge and mere motion, we do give and grant to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors for the future for ever, may have, hold, and keep, and have power and be able to

have, hold, and keep yearly, in the vill or borough of Wigan aforesaid, one fair, to begin in and upon the 16th day of July, if it be not the Lord's day, and, if it be so, then upon the day next following, and to be yearly kept, and to continue for all such day of the beginning thereof aforesaid and through two days next following, together with a Court of Pie Powder at the time of the same fair, and together with stallage, piccage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, commodities, and emoluments whatsoever to such fair and Court of Pie Powder belonging, appertaining, happening, arising, or contingent, and together with all liberties and free customs to such fairs belonging or appertaining to be taken, received, and kept to the proper occasion and use, benefit, and advantage of the said mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors for the time being for ever and this without any compensation or anything else theretofore to be yielded, paid, or done to us, our heirs, or successors, and without any molestation, disturbance, grievance, or contradiction of us, our heirs, or successors, or of any sheriffs, escheators, bailiffs, officers, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever, and without any warrant, writ, or precept from us, our heirs, or successors hereafter in that behalf to be procured or obtained, so that such fair be not to the injury of the neighbouring fairs. And further, of our more abundant special grace and certain knowledge and mere motion, we have granted and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant and give special licence and free and lawful faculty, power, and authority to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors to have, receive, and take to themselves and their successors for ever manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, boscages, subboscages, rectories, tithes, rents, revenues, and other hereditaments whatsoever within our kingdom of England and elsewhere within our dominions as well from us, our heirs, or successors, as from any other person or any other persons whomsoever, so that the same manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, boscages, subboscages, rectories, tithes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments, so as aforesaid to be had, received, and taken, do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of £50 by the year, besides all burthens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands and tenements not to be put into mortmain or any other statute, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had, made, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. We do also give and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to each our subjects and every the subjects of us, our heirs, and successors, special licence and free and lawful power, faculty, and authority that they or any one or any of them may and can be able to give, sell, grant, bequeath, or alien manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, boscages, subboscages, rectories, tithes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments whatsoever to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, so nevertheless that all the aforesaid manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, boscages, subboscages, rectories, tithes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments to the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough and their successors by virtue of these presents so, as aforesaid, to be given, granted, bequeathed, or aliened, do not exceed, in the whole, the clear yearly rent or value of £50 by the year, besides all burthens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands or tenements not to be put into mortmain or any other thing, cause, or matter heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. To have, hold, and enjoy all and singular the premises aforesaid above by these presents given, granted, or confirmed, or mentioned to be given, granted, or confirmed to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors for ever. And to yield and pay, therefore, to us, our heirs, and successors so many, so great, such the same, and such sort of rents, services, sums of money, and demands whatsoever as for the same or any or any of them have heretofore been accustomed or of right ought to be yielded or paid. Wherefore it is our will and by these presents by firmly injoining, we do command for us, our heirs, at d successors, that the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors may have and enjoy or can or may be able to have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy for ever all the liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, customs, grants, franchisements, easements, lands, tenements, and hereditaments aforesaid, and all their goods and chattels whatsoever according to the tenor, form, and effect of these, our letters patent, without any opposition, molestation, or hindrance of us, our heirs, and successors, our justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or other ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever. We being unwilling that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgerses, or their successors, or any one or any of them, by reason of the premises, or any of them, may be opposed, molested, disquieted, or burthened, or in any thing disturbed by us, our heirs, or successors, justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whomsoever. We being also willing and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors charging and commanding, as well the treasurer, chancellor, barons of our exchequer at Westminster, and other justices of us, our heirs, and successors, as our Attorney and Solicitor-General for the time being, and each of them, and all ministers and officers of us, our heirs, and successors whatsoever for the time being, that neither they nor any or any one of them obtain, prosecute, or continue, or make, or cause, or any of them make, or cause to be obtained, prosecuted, or continued any writ or summons of quo warranto, or any our writ or writs, or processes whatsoever, against the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any one or any of them, for any causes, things, matters, offences, claims, and usurpations, or any of them, by them or any of them attempted, claimed, accustomed had made or usurped before the making of these our letters patent. Being also willing that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any of them, be in no wise molested or hindered by any one, or any the justices, sheriffs, officers, or ministers aforesaid, in or for a debt or claim, or abuse of any other liberties, privileges, franchises, or jurisdictions within the borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, before the day of the making these our letters patent, or be compelled to answer to any one or any of them. We do also will and, by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, that they may have and shall have these our letters patent under our great seal of England in due manner made and sealed without fine or fee, great or small, to us in the Hanaper of our Chancery, or elsewhere, to our use therefore in anywise to be yielded, paid, or made. Because that express mention of the true annual value, or the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or concerning the gifts or grants by us, or any of our progenitors or predecessors, before these times made to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough aforesaid in these presents is in no wise made, or any statute act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction to the contrary thereof, heretofore had made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding. In testimony of which thing we have caused these our letters to made patent. Witness our self, at Westminster, the 16th day of May, in the 14th year of our reign.

Howard.

By a Writ from the Private Seal.—(Without Fine or Fee.)

Twelve years after the foundation of Guest's Charity Oliver Markland made a valuable bequest to the town, particulars of which can best be gathered from the following particulars, taken from the report of the Commissioners (1828).

By indentures of feoffment, bearing date respectively 1st and 2nd February, 1665, Oliver Markland, one of the burgesses of the town, a citizen and innholder in London, devised certain lands in Broughton-in-Furness, called Angerton Marsh, for the use of the poor in Wigan. In 1632 these estates were vested in the same persons as the Rainford estate. About 1708 they were sold for £25, in

consideration of the receipt of which sum one Ralph Bancks granted 20s. a year for the use and behoof of the poor of Wigan. In the Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into public charities, as far as relates to public charities within the parish of Wigan, it is stated: ... "By indenture bearing date 8th November, 1727, between Ralph Bancks, of the one part, and Alexander Leigh and others, described as feoffees of certain rents and lands for the use of the poor people, inhabitants, of the town and borough of Wigan, of the other part, reciting that Oliver Markland, late citizen and innholder of London, had granted to the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Wigan, and their successors, certain lands in the parish of Broughton, called Angerton Marsh, for the relief, benefit, and advantage of the poor people inhabitants of the said town and borough, which lands, lying adjacent to and bordering on the sea coast, had always been exposed to the continual overflowing of the ocean, and had thereby been daily impaired both in value and substance: and reciting that about the year 1706 the then mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, feoffees of the said lands, having taken into consideration the injury done to the said lands, whereby the pious intent of the donor was frustrated, had unanimously agreed that it was the most proper expedient, in order to preserve the donor's intention, that the said lands should be sold, and the money arising therefrom disposed of to the like uses, and further reciting that, in pursuance thereof, the said lands had been sold for the sum of £25, which had been placed out to interest, and the produce thereof applied to the purposes for which the said lands were given. The said Ralph Bancks, in consideration of the said sum of £25, granted to the said Alexander Leigh and others and their heirs a yearly rent charge of 20s., clear of all deductions, issuing out of a messuage or burgage and tenement in a street in Wigan called Standishgate, then the inheritance of the said Ralph Bancks, to the use and behoof of the poor inhabitants of the said borough, payable every 6th of October, with a power of distress in case of non-payment. No payment has been received for a great number of years, and we could obtain no evidence whatever to show what the premises are upon which it is charged."

CHAPTER V.

Burning Wells of Wigan in the 17th Century—Fishing in Wigan—Advowson of the Parish Church—Ejected Ministers in Lancashire—Wigan Curates—Bishop Hall—Escape of the Bishop from Death by Fire: His Death at Wigan—Discovery of Gas—Dr. Clayton, of Wigan—Lathom Spa—Social Position of the Burgesses of Wigan—Award—Confirmation and Lease of Bishop Bridgeman—Clandestine Marriages in Wigan—Dugdale—Nonconformity—Evil Omens—The Great Fire and Plague—Destruction of Wigan Grammur School Property in the London Fire—Bishop Wilkins.

HE natural curiosity of man is a powerful incentive to education, but when it goes hand in hand with superstition, its deductions form a wonderful subject of curious speculation. People of the present age are amazed at the credulity of their Lancashire forefathers, who seemed to consider every extraordinary phenomenon in nature as supernatural, if they did not understand it. Those forefathers of the seventeenth century lived in an age of simple faith, with a blind and prejudiced reason. They jumped at conclusions about natural phenomena, and were almost invariably wrong. Thunder was to them the voice of the Deity, and lightning hieroglyphics in an unknown tongue written in the sky. Plagues and murrains were believed to be the works of bewitched beldames. It was one of the open secrets that the Devil could be everywhere at the same time, in all sorts of human forms. Even men of learning believed that the stars governed the destinies of nations and individuals. Many clung to the gossipy doctrine that it was possible to make an elixir of life that would cure all maladies and malformations, and debar the influences of disease and death. Indeed there is no end to the then existing superstitious beliefs that are now considered absurd, and it may be that coming generations will marvel at the absurd beliefs now credited. There were burning wells in the neighbourhood of Wigan in the sixteenth century, about which most extraordinary ideas were held. Superstitious persons with lively imaginations declared that the smell of sulphur was strong, and it was the undoubted opinion of many that the well was one of the doors to Hades, whence the Evil One issued to cut his nocturnal capers with the local witches.

Pilgrims flocked from far to see the blazing fountains with curiosity as great as the enthusiasm of Mecca or Medina pilgrims of the nineteenth century. Ignorant people looked on in awe, whilst philosophers and scientists were nonplussed. Reckless youth, regardless of might-be consequences, flocked to them with their peace eggs at Eastertide, and boiled them there, to the astonishment of visitors from neighbouring Travelling merchants boasted in other towns that they had seen them. Were they still extant a limited liability company would doubtless be formed, the property bought, walled in, and one shilling charged for admission; but in those days every thought was not centered on how to make money, and the wells were free alike to the bold and the timid, the philosopher and the curious. Surely if these people were to see the lime, or electric, light they would imagine and believe the stars had come down from heaven, and were held near the earth by the conducting wires. To them the gas-lit streets would only be one of a million of extraordinary phenomena. Now, it does not seem strange that, from such an extensive coal-field as that of which Wigan is the centre, the gas should ooze out from many different places. The most important of these wells were in Pemberton, Wigan, Scholes, and Haigh. One near Scholes was called the "New Harrogate Spa." In Petoa Mala, near Tiernzota, in Italy, a well, in many respects similar to the Wigan one, exists, where carbonated hydrogen, produced by the decomposition of water acting upon ores and sulphate of iron, is spontaneously ignited. The gas of the Wigan wells was carbonated hydrogen. The Right Hon. Roger North, in his northern circuit, visited these wells, and gave the following account of them in his life of Francis North (Baines' History of Lancashire):—"In the return homewards from Lancaster his lordship took all the advantage he could of seeing great towns and places of note. He staid some days with Sir Roger Bradshaw, whose lordship is famous for yielding the canal (or candle) coal. It is so term'd, I guess, because the manufacturers in that country use no candle, but work by the light of their coal-fire. The property of it is to burn and flame till it is all consumed, without leaving any cinder. It is lighted by a candle like amber, and the grate stands not against the back of a large chimney, as common coal grates, but in the middle, where ballads are pasted round, and the folk sit about it working or merry-making. His lordship saw the pits, where vast piles of that coal were raised; and it is a pity the place wants water carriage; also London would be, in the latter part, served with it. But the greatest wonder his lordship saw was that which they call the Burning Well. The manner of it is this. in one place, where they know the sulphurous vapour perspires (often in a ditch) they dig up a turf and clap it down in its place again; and then they are ready for projection. When the Shew Company are come, a man takes up the turf, and after a little puffing of a brown paper match gives fire, and instantly the hole is filled

with a blue spirituous flame like brandy. It seemed to waste, and I believe would not have burnt in that manner long; but while it was burning they put water in the hole, and the flame continued upon the water as if it had been spirits. And some people said they used to boil eggs there. That which seemed most strange was that the vapour should come through the water and burn, and no bubbling of the water appear. It seems to infer that the vapour permeates the body of the water, as water through sands. But I question, if the body were not fluid, but rigid, as glass, whether the vapour would so easily pass it; for the perpetual action of the fluid parts facilitates the passage. And it is some demonstration how easily the effluvia of a magnet may permeate glass, metals, and every palpable substance we are acquainted with, as we continually observe them."

The following descriptive account of these wells is by an eye-witness: -- "About the latter end of February, 1659, returning from a journey to my house in Wigan, I was entertained with the relation of an old spring, situated in one Mr. Hawley's grounds (if I mistake not), about a mile from the town, in that road which leads to Warrington and Chester. The people of this town did confidently affirm that the water of this spring did burn like oyle; into which error they suffered themselves to fall from want of a due examination of the following particulars. For when we came to the said spring (being five or six in company together) and applied a lighted candle to the surface of the water, 'tis true there was suddenly a large flame produced, which burnt vigorously, at the sight of which they all began to laugh at me for denying what they positively asserted. But I, who did not think myself confuted, began to examine what I saw; and, observing that this spring had its eruption at the foot of a tree growing on a neighbouring bank, the water of which spring filled a ditch that was near, and covered the burning place lately mentioned, I then applied the lighted candle to divers parts of the water in the said ditch, and found, as I expected, that upon the touch of the candle and the water the flame was extinct. Again, having taken up a dishfull of water at the flaming place, and held the lighted candle to it, it went out. Yet I observed that the water at the burning place did boyle, and heave like water in a pot on the fire, though my hand put into it perceived it not so much as warm. This boyling I conceived to proceed from the eruption of some bitumineous or sulphureous fumes; considering this place was not above thirty or forty yards distant from the mouth of a coal pit there, and indeed Wigan, Ashton, and the whole country, for many miles compass, is underlaid Then applying my hand to the surface of the burning place of the water, I found a strong breath, as it were a thud, to bear against my hand. Then I caused a dam to be made, and thereby hindering the recourse of fresh water to the burning place I caused that which was already there to be drained away, and then applying the burning candle to the surface of the dry earth at the same point where the water burned before, the fumes took fire, and burned very bright and vigorous. The cone of the flame ascended a foot and a half from the superficies of the earth. The basis of it was of the compass of a man's hat about the brim. I then caused a bucketful of water to be poured on the fire, by which it was presently quenched, as well as my companions' laughter was stopped, who then began to think the water did not burn. I did not perceive the flame to be discoloured, like that of sulphureous bodies, nor to have any manifest scent with it. The fumes, when they broke out of the earth, and prest against my hand, were not to my best remembrance at all hot."—(Letter of Thomas Shirley, Esq.)

Let the reader think of the following extract from Dr. Fuller's Worthies, p. 191, and Bailey's Life of Fuller, p. 743:—"About Wigan, and elsewhere in this county, men go a-fishing with spades and mattocks: more likely, one would think, to catch moles than fishes with such instruments. First, they pierce the turfy ground, and under it meet with a black and deadish water, and in it small fishes do swim. Surely these pisces fossiles, or subterranean fishes, must needs be unwholesome, the rather because an unctuous matter is found about them. Let them be thankful to God, in the first place, who need not such meat to feed upon. And next them, let those be thankful which have such meat to feed upon when they need it." researches of Colonel H. Fishwick, F.S.A., have brought this historical statement altogether outside the wonderland of impossibilities into the less fascinating one of improbabilities by simply proving that not Wigan, but Formby, on the seaside, is the place referred to. I cannot find any conjectures as to what kind of fishes they were: perhaps they were cockles.

The advowson of the Parish Church, which had frequently changed hands, was purchased by Sir Orlando Bridgeman about the time of the Restoration, and it remains to this day in the possession of the representatives of his family. He bought it with no intention of making it a family living, but seemingly rather as a rural living for the Bishops of Chester. The original deed of purchase has been lost, but in subsequent deeds of trust it is stated that "Sir John Bridgeman, knowing his father's intentions to be that his heirs should not take ye same to their own use, &c., pursuant of ye pious intention of his father, grants, bargains, and sells to Henry, Bishop of London, &c., the said advowson in trust, yt they shall present the Bishop of Chester or some other person as they, in your judgment, shall think fit, &c."—(Not. Cest., Vol. 21). When his father purchased it he conveyed it in trust to Gilbert, Archbishop of Canterbury. Five consecutive Bishops of Chester held the living from 1662 to 1700, not one of whom was connected with the Bridgeman family. It was nearly a hundred years after (1740) the purchase before one of the Bridgeman family was presented to the living by the patron.

The following account of Sir Orlando Bridgeman is given by Dr. Worthington in his "Diary and Correspondence," as published in the thirteenth volume of the Chetham Society's Publications:—"Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the son of Dr. J. Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester, was sent to Queen's College, Cambridge, and became afterwards an eminent lawyer. He sat in the Long Parliament for Wigan, and when hostilities commenced between the king and the Parliament, he took a decided and active part On the Restoration he was created Chief Baron of the in favour of the former. Court of Exchequer, and presided at the trial of the regicides. He was subsequently made Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and few judges have ever held that office with more deserved reputation. On the 31st August, 1667, the Great Seal was delivered to him, which he held as Lord Keeper till November 16th, 1672, when he was succeeded by the famous, or rather infamous, Lord Shaftsbury. died at his residence in Teddington in 1674. He was unquestionably an honest man and a sound and able lawyer. Some of his contemporaries have given rather a disparaging account of the manner in which he discharged the functions of an equity judge. It must, however, be recollected that he was made Lord Keeper very late in life, at a period when equity, as a science, was in its infancy; but certainly the reports of his decisions which exist show no apparent want and soundness on equitable principle. Of those who have censured him, Burnet is little to be relied upon, and Roger North had a grudge against him on his brother, Lord Guildford's, account. It should not be forgotten that Bridgeman had the courage to speak against Strafford's attainder; and that his final fall from office took place solely because he would not lend himself to the iniquitous measures of the court. In Lord Campbell's amusing Lives of the Chancellors, a biography of Bridgeman is contained in vol. III., p. 271; but the reader should be cautioned in this case, as well as in that of Lord Guildford's, against the evident want of fairness and impartiality which both articles When he tells us of the former that 'he turned out a most execrable judge,' and of the latter that 'he was one of the most odious men who ever held the Great Seal of England,' one cannot but regret that the vehemence of the party advocate should only be seen when we look for the still small voice of historical truth."

The three religious parties, Papists, Puritans, and Episcopalians, had fought long and struggled hard, each one in its turn of power vieing with its predecessor in mercilessness. At first there were but two parties, which now won and now lost, whilst the populace in the great national arena cheered to the echo the momentary victor. The fashionable creed was clearly the result of adopting proof of the true religion by the ordeal of physical strength. Each party, as a whole, was sincere, although many individual members had not a grain of true religion in them, and were but mercenary Christians

on the stronger side, no matter whether Papist or anti-Papist. The Papists and Episcopalians fought until the wonder is they did not both succumb, like exhausted and simultaneously wounded gladiators, for scarcely had the latter been declared the victor, by the upturned thumbs of English recognition, when another powerful and full-grown opponent—the Puritans—entered the lists, and the battle was renewed, whilst the Papists lay quietly, recovering their strength and biding their time. The new foes were shocked at the manners and customs of the time, and challenged to mortal combat all who contested their stern principles. Whilst endeavouring to compel all men to live the sober lives of melancholy Christians, they eschewed all manner of evil in thought, word, and deed, talked Scripture language, sang holy hymns, and talked and prayed when worldly men believed they could innocently gossip. Joy, sport, and lively happiness were to be banished from the land, and their time was to be spent in weeping and wailing for national sin. Public statues, hewn by the skill of genius, although to the pure all things are pure, were rehewn by their own rude masons when the drapery was considered insufficient. Every man was to be forced to live as pure a life as the founder of Christianity. Long they fought, and, of course, failed, although they had attained power in the land, and a cure for the religious troubles of the time, through their influence, excessive beyond necessity, was administered by the King and Parliament in 1662. An Act of Uniformity was passed, to which two thousand conscientious ministers would not conform. Of these sixty-seven were in Lancashire, conspicuous among whom was Charles Hotham, Rector of Wigan, who had been appointed to that living twelve years before (1650) in the place of James Bradshaw, who was removed for not observing the Parliamentary feast of 1st June, 1650.

George Hall was the first of five consecutive bishops of Chester who held the rectorship of Wigan according to the apparent wish of the patron, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, who purchased the advowson and gave it in trust to Gilbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, for himself and his heirs. This deed was seen by, or at least its contents were known to, his own son and heir, who expressed his intention of carrying out his father's wish, although he was in nowise compelled to do so, for not only had he succeeded to all his father's property and estates, but this deed of trust had been lost, as mentioned before. Bishop Hall was the son of the Bishop of Exeter, and was born in 1612 at Waltham Holy Cross. Like that of many of the clergy of his day, his life was an eventful one—now he literally rolled in wealth, and anon subsisted on charity, and then again dignified. He was collated to a prebend of Exeter in 1639, and in 1641 was made Archdeacon of Cornwall when his brother Robert resigned that office. His property, down to the very clothes of his children, was sequestrated by the Parliamentarians, who refused to allow him to open a school, by which he might obtain a sufficient, although scanty, pittance to keep him from beggary and dependence

on the generosity of charitable people. With the Restoration came happier times for him and other plundered ministers. He was first made Canon of Winchester, and then Bishop of Chester and Rector of Wigan. In 1666 the Bishop (Hall) very often preached in Wigan, especially against the atheistical doctrines which were then being largely promulgated, and many people came to hear him from the surrounding districts. On the Saturday night of the 1st September he had a very narrow escape from being burned to death, for his groom had left the candle so near his bed that in the middle of the night the bishop was unceremoniously awoke by the whole place being in flames. It seemed as if the Fates had decreed that his eventful life should be terminated by some unnatural means, for, having after a long and chequered career narrowly escaped from being suffocated by smoke and consumed by fire, his pious life was at last, in 1668, within a few yards of the same spot, brought to a close by a simple accident. At Wigan he died, 23rd August, 1668, from the effects of a wound caused by his falling and accidentally stabbing himself with a knife, which was in his pocket. The accident took place in his own garden at Wigan. Of several publications of his, the chief was (1655) "The Triumphs of Rome over Despised Protestancy."

Many are edified by what merely amuses or puzzles others. When superstitious persons stand in awe, then the scientific person looks for discovery. The Rev. Dr. Clayton, of Wigan, admired the local burning wells, and was amazed at their appearance, quite as much as amused at the superstitious ignorance of visitors. He closely examined the phenomenon, and by rude experiments first discovered that it was not the water, but an evaporating air or gas that burned; then he was anxious to know whether that special spot was the only place where it would burn, and he further discovered it could be carried away in air-tight vessels, as in a bladder, which he used, and consumed the gas wherever he pleased, finding its light far superior to many rushlights. These successful experiments only roused his curiosity as to whence this gas proceeded, and, coal having been long in use, he proceeded to distil it, and that with success. Thus, Dr. Clayton, of Wigan, is, as far as known, the first discoverer and manufacturer (experimentally only) of coal gas, although it did not then come into popular use. An account of the manufacture of coal gas was first published by Dr. Hales in 1726, but the first known account was written long before this by Dr. Clayton, of Wigan, although his account was only published in the Unfortunately his letter is not dated, but is "Philosophical Transactions" of 1739. addressed to the Honourable Robert Boyle, who died in 1691, and therefore Clayton's letter must have been written at least 35 years before Dr. Hales' treatise was published. Although Clayton, Hales, and others had experimented with gas, it was a hundred years after their time that it was publicly used, and, although Dr. Clayton may be considered the discoverer, he was not the means of bringing gas into use or even into public notice.

There is an abundance of mineral in the neighbourhood of Wigan, and yet no mineral well; but such has not always been the case. One of the most fashionable inland watering-places might have been at Lathom. Even down to the end of the 17th century it was frequented by invalids from all parts of the country, and many remarkable cures are said to have been effected. The waters of Lathom Spa were said to be superior to those of Tunbridge or Harrogate. One remarkable peculiarity of the Spa was that an abundance of the remains of cockle and periwinkle shells came out with the clear spring water. Dr. Borlasse wrote a book, about 1670, commending the virtues of the Lathom Spa, and prophesying for the district a fortunate and fashionable future, which has not come to pass, for the Spa has been drained away by the coal mines of the neighbourhood. The same thing has occurred where other Spas, as the one in Harrogate Street, might have existed as popular watering places at this day. There are cold and hot water springs, with medicinal properties derived from the solution of substances through which they pass. health-giving properties of these wells, or springs, are chiefly soda, magnesia, lime, iron, and sulphur. The Lathom Spa, and the Spa which was in the present Harrogate Street of Wigan, were chiefly sulphureous and chalybeate waters.

The more civilisation trod upon the evils of the feudal system generally the more, in particular, did the burghal classes assert their importance and rights as The more people assembled together in towns, the more national necessities. enlightened and advanced they became by the interchange of ideas, and consequently burghal concerns were far more eagerly discussed—for the numbers concerned were far greater—than those of an agrarian nature which have not even to this day entirely thrown off the feudal yoke. The history of burghal progress in Wigan is very interesting, and especially so as many documents exist to make the different grades of advancement clearly visible. A burgess of the Parliamentarian period was of no mean significance. His social position could either be purchased or inherited, and both ancestry and money always were and always will be powerful social agents in Britain. A man who cannot trace his descent beyond his grandfather, nor can show a good account at his banker's, even in these degenerate days of Radicalism, is no great social power, even if his brain-power be abnormally great. So it was with the old burgesses of Wigan-blood or money was the passport to influence. As a burgh the town could look back in its advanced age with no small pride. For over 400 years the system of local government had been in course of evolution and the burghal classes rising in importance, and now added to all this was the vast interest then taken generally in the national government, coupled to the fact that the

burgesses alone could return representatives. From the small courts at the Rector's Hall, where the burgesses were simply content to act as jurymen with a protective prejudice, the town had grown to be more powerful than the Rector himself. Burgesses and inhabitants generally were still willing to honour him as the ancient head and lord of the town, but they were gradually and persistently withdrawing those powers from him that seemed to embarrass them. Local as well as national freedom was a subject of no small interest to them. Every generation seemed to be encroaching on the old baronial rights, and often the indifference of the baron went on for such long periods, and the encroaching habits of the burgesses were so steady and persistent, that when objections were raised the inhabitants were enabled to claim the custom, which in common law was always as powerful as the written law itself. Besides, the progress of the town was clearly traceable to the good conduct, perseverance, and ability of the burgesses, and therefore by the laws of common sense they were entitled to some of the profits of progress. One of the many claims raised by the townsmen against the rector was settled by arbitration in 1664, when the son of Bishop Bridgeman was Lord Chief Justice of England. According to this the powers and privileges of the town and rector were clearly defined, and this was the result of many exciting meetings held in the Moot Hall for the purpose of legitimate agitation, a means of venting political feeling or grievance dear to Englishmen of all ages. According to this new award it was clearly stated that the Baron's Court was becoming practically useless for the administration of justice in many town's affairs, and that new burghal courts were taking its place. The only thing that the Rector's Court was now useful for, said the award, would be for finding out and inquiring into the chief rents due to the parson and encroachments on the glebe wastes, and accordingly it was agreed that the Court Baron should be held but once in two years, and not oftener, and that only in the Moot Hall, instead of, as originally, at the Rectory. Neither mayor nor burgesses were there to be called upon, according to ancient custom, to pay suit or service to that court, for the town had its own courts independent of this. In 1618 the town had received its share of the profits accruing from the fairs, as mentioned in the subjoined award, herewith printed for the first time, and now one of the original documents in the possession of the Corporation:-Burgus de Wigan) Whereas there was about the Month of ffebruary, which was in the year of our Lord God One Thousand six hundred Sixty and Two, A Refferance made to the Rt. Honorable the Ld. Ch. Justice Bridgman by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Wigan, for and on the behalf of themselfe and there Successors and

made his Award in the premisses, and whereas alsoe the pattrons of the said Church of Wigan, to Witt, Gilbert, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; Humphrey, Lord Bishp. of London; George, Lord Bishp of Winchester, and ffrancis phillips, Esq., have, under there hands and Seals, Ratifyed and Confirmd the said award, to be for ever kept and Observed, and the said Lord Bushp. of Chester hath, in p'sueance of the said award, Seald a Lease to the said Corporacon. Wee, therefore, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan, at a Generall meetting, this day had in the Motehall, whim Wigan afforesd. having p'used the said Award, Confirmacon, and Lease, and Considered of the Same, Doe Agree that the same shall be accepted, taken, and p'formed on our part, and that the same by us and our Successors shall be observed and kept, and that the same Refferance is and was made and prosecuted by our Consent. In testimony whereof we have as well put the seale of the said Corporacon, as our own hands the fifth day of July, ano. RR. dm. Caroli Sodi nunc Angl., etc., XVI. Ano. Dm. 1664.

Which said Award, Confirmacon, and Lease follows, in these Words:-

To all Xtian people to whom this present Writeing shall come, I, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Kt. and Barrt., Cheife Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Send Greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Whereas the Rt. Reverad Father in God, George, Lord Bpp. of Chester and Parson of Wigan, in the County of Lance on the behalfe of himself and his successors, Parsons of Wigan afforesd. on the one part, and the Mayor, Bayliffes, and Burgesses of Wigan aforesd for themselves and their successors and the Corporacon of the Burrough of Wigan, on the other part, have mutually agreed to stand to, abide, p'forme, and fulfill such award as I, the said Sir Orlando Bridgeman, shall make Concerning all Differences and Demands between them. Now this present writeing, Indented, wittneseth that I, the said Sir Orlando Bridgeman, takeing upon me the Burden of the said Award. Doe Arbitrate and Award between the partyes Concerning the promises, as followeth: -- ffirst. I, the said Sir Orlando Bridgeman, doe declare that the Parson of Wigan is Undoubtedly Lord of the Mannr. of Wigan, and that he and his Successors, as Lord of the said Mannr., may from tyme to tyme, at Convenient tymes, keep a Court Barron, at which the ffreholdrs within the said Mannr ought to doe there Suite and Service. But for that the Mayor, Bayliffes, and Burgesses of Wigan have a Court of Pleas for trying of Actions, so that the said Court Barron will be of little use for Administracon of Justice, or of Advantage to the Parson of Wigan, Save Onely for finding out and Enquiry into the Cheife Rents due to the Parson and Encroutchments upon the Wests. Therefore, for the Establishing a perpetuall amity between the parson and his successors for the tyme being, and the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan aforesd., and there successors for the tyme being, I doe Award that the Parson doe keep his Court Baron but once in two years, and not oftener, and that in the Moothall, in Wigan, and not elsewhere, and that at the said Court noe Pleas be held between party and party; and that neither the Mayor then being, nor any of the Aldermen who have been Mayors, shall be amerced for not doeing there Suite and Service at the said Court; but that all other Burgesses and suitors duely attend at the said Court to doe there Suite and Service, and to Enquire after and find out such persons as shall detaine there Rents from the Lord of the Mannr., and to find out all Encrouchments and purprestures upon the Streets and Wasts of the said Mann'r.

And I doe further Award that, from henceforth, there shall not be any Incrouchm^{ss.} made or Cottages Erected upon the Streets or Wasts within the said Mannr., wthout. the leave of the Parson and Consent of the Mayor of Wigan for the tyme being; and that such Incrouchm^{ts.} as have been made since the year 1640 (if any such have been), shall be raisonably arrented by the Parson and his Successors; if the Corporation think fitt, they be Continued, or otherwise be pulld down and laid open. Nevertheless, alsoe, I further Award that the Potters of Wigan for the tyme being may Digg Clay in the Wasts of the said Mannr., as heartofore Potters of Wigan have used to doe, provided the places so digged be forthwth after the Digging sufficiently amended.

Also, whereas, by an award made on or about the 23rd day of ffebruary, in the year of our Lord

God, 1618, by George, then Lord Arch Bpp. of Canterbury; Lancelot, Lord Bishop of Ely; Sir Henry Montague, Cheife Justice to the Court of King's Bench, and Sir Henry Hobert, Cheife Justice of the Court of Comon Pleas, Between the then Parson of Wigan and the Corporacon, upon a Referrance, from the late King James, of ever blessed memory. The said Refferees did order that the fair kept yearly at Wigan, upon St. Luke's day, and the Markett kept there Every ffryday Weekly, and the p'entice and the Court of Pleas, and the Michaelmas Leet, wth the profitts of the same, shold be the Corporacon. I doe Accordingly hereby order and Award that the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan, and there Successors, shall for Ever, as in there own Right, have the said fairs, Markett, and Courts, with the profitts of the same. But that they shall not sue or arrest, or cause, or Willingly permitt to be Sued or Arrested, any of the famyly or menial Servants of the Parson of Wigan for the tyme being, upon or by reason of any Suite or Plea in any of the said Courts, without the leave of the said Parson; and Whereas the said Refferees did order that the faire which is held in Wigan on Assenssion day yearely, and the Markett which is kept on Mounday weekly, and the Easter Leet, shold be the Parson's, I doe hereby Order and Award that the now Lord Bpp. of Chester, Parson of Wigan, and his Successors, Parsons of Wigan, shall for Ever, as in Right of the Church of Wigan, have the said faire, Markett, and Court Leet, with the profitts of the same. But for that I Conceive it will be a great means to Continue peace and good will between the said Lord Bpp. and his Successors and the said Corporacon of Wigan and their Successors, That the said Parson shall Demise the said faire, Markett, and Court Leet to the said Corporacon. And for that the Rt. Reverad. Father in God, John Bridgeman, Ld. Bpp. of Chester and Parson of Wigan, at my Instance did heretofore Demise the same to the said Corporaton for 21 years, at the yearely Rent of 3 pounds 6 shillings and 8 pence. I doe hereby order and award that the said George, now Lord Bpp. of Chester, shall, before the 25th day of March next Ensueing, the date of the present, by his writing, Indented, demise, and to farm-lett unto the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of the said Town of Wigan, the said yearely faire, Weekly Markett, and Court Leet, and all Tolls, Courts, Piccage, Stallages, Profitts, Comodityes, and Emoluments whatsoever, to the said faire, Markett, and Court Leet, or any of them belonging. To hold from the makeing of the Sd. Indenture for the Terme of 21 years then next following, Under the yearely Rent of five Marks, to be paid at Xmas and Midsomer yearely, by equall proporcons, to the said Lord Bpp. and his successors, Parsons of Wigan. And that upon Delivery of the said Lease to the Mayor of Wigan for the tyme being, the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan shall Cause to be delivered unto the said Lord Bpp. a Counterpart thereof, Sealed with the Seale of the said Corporacon. And I doe further Award that, upon the Expiracon of the said Lease by Surrender, affluxon of tyme, or otherwise, the Parson of Wigan for the tyme being shall, at the Request and at the Cost and Charge in the Law of the Corporacon of the Town of Wigan, make unto the said Corporacon a new Lease by Indenture of the premises for the like term of 21 years, under the like Reservation of the Rent of ffive Marks yearely dureing the said Term, and see from Tyme for Ever. the Parson of Wigan for the tyme being shall, upon the Expiracon or Surrender of the Lease, the last in being, make a new lease by Indenture of the premises so Demised to the said Corporation of the Town of Wigan for 21 years, under the like Reservation of the Rent of five Marks yearsly dureing the said Terme. And that upon makeing of Every such new Lease the Counterpart thereof shall be delivered to the said Parson, Seald with the Seale of the said Corporacon of the Town of Wigan.

And I doe further Award that the said Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan shall not maintaine, defend, or Incourage any person or persons Whatsoever in the Withholding any houses, Lands, Tenemts, or hereditamts Claim'd by the Parson of Wigan for the tyme being as belonging to him in Right of his parsonage. But Nevertheless that the parson for the tyme being shall use such as are or Come in Under Antient Tennts to the said parsonage, or which shall not Claime or Challenge the same as there own Inheritance, with that Moderation as hath been heartofore used towards Antient Church Tennants.

In Wittness to this, my Award, I, the said Sir Orlando Bridgeman, have hearunto Sett my hand and Seale, the 28th day of September, in the fiffteenth years of our Soveraighn Lord the King Charles the Second over England, &c.—Anno. Dm. 1663.

THE CONFIRMACON.—And we, Gilbert, Lord Arch Bisp. of Canterbury; Humphrey, Lord Bisp. of London; George, Lord Bpp. of Winchester, and Francis Phillipps, Esq., patrons, together with Sir Orlando Bridgeman, in the Award heareunto Anexed Menciond, of the Church of Wigan, haveing perused the Said Award, Doe hereby, as much as in us lyes, Ratifye and Confirme the same to be for ever kept and Observed as Tending to the preservation of Unity and peace between the Parson of Wigan and his Successors and the Corporacon of the Town of Wigan and there Successors.

In Wittness whereof we have hereunto Sett our hands and Seales the day of in the sixteenth of king Charles the second, Ano. Dom. 1664.

THE LEASE.—This Indenture, made the four and Twentith day of March, in the Sixteenth years of the Raighn of our Gratious Soveragne Lord, Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., Between the Rt. Revernd. Father in God, George, Lord Bisp. of Chester, and Parson of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, upon the One part, And Wm. Daniell, Esq., Mayor, and the Bayliffes and Burgesses of the said Town of Wigan, upon the other part, Wittnesseth that the said George, Lord Bisp. of Chester, and Parson of Wigan, as well for and in performance of an award made by Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Kt. and Barrt. Cheife Justice of his Majesty's Cott. of Comon pleas at Westminster, for the Settleing of peace and Unity Between the said Lord Bishop of Chester and his Successors, Parsons of Wigan, and the said Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses of Wigan, and there Successors, bearing date the 28th day of September last past before the date hereof, as also for and in Consideracon of the Rent hereinafter Reserved, hath demised, granted, Sett, and to farme-letten, and by these presents doth Demise, grant, Sett, and to farme-lett unto the said Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses, and there Successors, all that the faire, being the Sumer faire, held in the Town of Wigan, And all that Market held each Munday Weekley within the said Town of Wigan, And all that Court Leet or Veiw of Frankpledge of all Ressiants and Inhabitants win. the said Town of Wigan Calld the Easter Leet, And all Courts, Tolls, piccages, Stalages, profitts, Comodityes, Emolluments Whatsoever, At the said faire, Markett, and Court Leet, or any of them belonging, Incident, or apertaining, or to or wth the same had, Recd. or Injoyd, as part, parcell of, or belonging to the same. To have and to Hold the said faire, Weekly Markett, and Court Leet, and all and singular other the premises unto the said Mayor, Bayliffs, and Burgesses, and there Successors, from the day of the date hereof, for and dureing all the tyme, terme, and space of 21 years then next following, and fully to be Compleat and Ended, Yeilding and paying therefore yearly, during the said Terme, unto the said George, Lord Bishop of Chester, Parson of Wigan, and his Successors, parsons of Wigan, the Anuall or yearely rent of ffive Marks of good and lawfull money of England at two feast days or tymes in the yeare, that is to say, at the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist and the Nativity of our Lord God, by even and equall proporcons, for all manner of Rents, dutyes, and Servises due or to be due for the premises dureing the said Terme. In Wittness whereof the partyes first above-named to these presents, Indentures, Interchangeably, theire hands and Seals have sett the day and yeare first above written.

William Daniell, Mayor.
James Mullyneux.
Nic. Pennington.
Robt. Baron.
William Glover.
Ra. Markland.
Math. Markland.

James Forde.
Robt. Langshaw.
Tho. Hoghton.
Myles Turner.
Ambrose Jollye.
Gilbert Barrow.
John Anderton.

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Jo. Laithwaite. Ja. Scott. Will. Laithwait. Edward Markland. Richd. Cason, his mark. W. Bancks. Robt. Leatherbarrow. Robt. Winstanley. Willm. Briggs. Will. Langshaw. Robt. Markland. John Wakfeild. Edwd. Baron. Will. Linney. Tho. Marsden. Alex. Green. Ra. Holme. William Forth. Gilbert Forde. Christopher Sumner. Willm. Baldwin. Willm. Markland. Robt. Pennington. Ed. Mullineux. Seth Mason. Jeffrey Scott. Robt. Murrey. Willm. Cookson, his W mark. Willm. Foster, Br., his mark. Willm. Deane. Miles Seddon. James Letherbarrow, his I L mark. Roger Scott. Adam Bancks. George Brown. Gilbert Baldwin, sen. William Ireland. Hugh Moulding, his M mark. James Langshaw. Thomas Bullock. William Foster, Butcher, his P mark. James Astley. F. A. Prescott. Gilbert Green, his X mark.

Edward Bolton. Raph Urmston, his Q mark. Gilbert Deane, his mark. Humphrey Leigh, his H mark. James Bancks. Robert Bibby, his R mark. E. Laithwaite, his A mark. James Rigby. Ralph Deane, his R mark. Thomas Scott. Thomas forde. Thomas Burgess, his B mark. Carard Ford. Lawrence Anderton. Oliver Whalley. Tho. Parr, his O mark. Alex. Forth, Pewter, his T mark. Gilbert Langshaw. Gilbert Glover. John fforde. Richard Scott, his R S mark. James Browne. James Hollinhed. Roger Laithwaite, his R mark. Peter Heigham. James Marsden. Charles Bancks, the B mark. Thomas Barrow. Alexander fforde, Barber, A F, his mark. Thomas Greene, his mark. Thomas Butler. Robt. Leatherbarrow, his R L mark. Thomas Tarleton. William Marsden. Richard Rylands, his A mark. Hugh Forde. Robt. fforde, jun. Raphe Langshaw. James Forde. Charles Bancks, sen., his C D mark. Raphe Wakefield. Gilbert Baldwin, younger. Ralph Tarleton, his R mark. William Greene.

At a clandestine marriage in 1663-4 (Lowe's Diary) seven of the party of runaways rode through Wigan towards Holland, each decked with a yard of twelvepenny ribbon, bought in Wigan for the purpose of marital distinction. Such John Gilpin shows were not less frequent in the town than the Gretna Green marriages of the days of our grandfathers. The couples were often pursued by irate parents, or persons interested in the fortunes of the bridal heiress. Naturally enough every such show was a nine days' wonder and food for merry gossip, old maids being specially severe on the frivolities of headstrong youth, although in most cases their lively imaginations

pictured to them the happy day when still gayer Wigan ribbons would flutter in the air on their nuptial day; but with their inevitable ceremony there would, of course, be no scandal connected, according to their chaste and hopeful thoughts.

Dugdale, the antiquary and historian, was born 12th September, 1605, near Coleshill, in Warwickshire. He distinguished himself by his literary career and labours in the Herald's Office, and was advanced to the office of Norroy King-at-Arms after the Restoration. His "Origines Juridiciales," published in folio (1666), is adorned with excellent drawings of the heads of several men eminent in his day, one being Sir Orlando Bridgeman. When he professionally visited Wigan in 1664 as Norroy King-of-Arms he sketched a drawing of the monument of Sir William Bradshaigh and his Lady Mabel, and rehearsed their romantic history.

Up to this time the only two subordinate parishes of Wigan were Hindley and Billinge, frequent mention of each of which is made in the Wigan churchwardens' accounts, stating the supply of sacramental wine. From all the neighbourhood round people were compelled to come to the mother church at Wigan, or one of these parishes, and, if they did not come, they were reported, persecuted, and fined, or imprisoned. Nonconformist clergy had been ejected from their livings, and by Act of Parliament compelled to live not less than five miles from their boroughs. Holy but nonconforming men had frequently stood at the bar with thieves, highwaymen, and murderers, and been confined with them in the most filthy and pestilence-breeding prisons, whilst the people of the county were compelled to pay for their sustenance. thousand Quakers alone were liberated from prison, where they had been interned for Nonconformity. Richard Baxter and John Bunyan were two of the greatest imprisoned Nonconformists-for preaching in unlicensed conventicles. The people were compelled to attend divine service, and generally they came with pleasure, not because of the service or sermon, but, there being no newspapers, because round the Parish Church before and after service old friends met and discussed the news and topics of the day, just as people now do at country churches.

There had been a great drought in the land throughout the summer, so much so that even in the north of England all the wheat was shorn by the middle of August. The next summer was as dry, and wheat was garnered before the end of July. Two great blazing stars were seen in 1664, another two in 1665, and all the world wondered and believed that something terrible was to happen, for the evil omens were believed to be understood by the superstitious, who afterwards unhesitatingly connected them with the dreadful calamities of 1666—the Great Plague and Fire of London, by which even Wigan suffered great loss.

The Great Plague had decimated the mighty city, but the Furies were far from being satiated by the destructive feast of mortality, and it seemed that the Great Fire was about to devour those left by the Plague. The streets of London were narrow, and the timber houses, pitched on the outside, projected on their upper stories so that the flames of the one easily caught hold of the other, and the fire that broke out in Fish Street Hill on the Sunday morning of September 2nd, 1666, within three furious days destroyed houses and property to an amount exceeding ten millions sterling. "The Chalice and Shepherd," property given by Mr. Bullock to endow the Wigan Grammar School, was wrecked in the general ruin. Many schools suffered in the same way, for many of the London successful merchants who had endowed schools throughout the country were of provincial origin, and their charities, proceeding from London properties, were generally bestowed on their native towns. There were many years of litigation in connection with such scholastic losses, and it was two years before Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Ralph Markland, and William Laithwayte, Aldermen of Wigan, gained the case before the Court in favour of the Wigan Grammar School against William Page and his wife, who claimed the property, which had by will been devised to Ellen, the daughter of John Bullock and wife The petitioners were nonsuited, and the Grammar School Charity maintained. The other sources of endowment for the school were an estate called Ackhurst, in Orrell, Backshaw's lands in Aspull, and three small closes called Brown Meadows and Boor's House and Croft, all in the parish of Wigan. Both master and usher were nominated by the feoffees.

John Wilkins, a brief account of whom was commenced in the local magazine by the late Rev. Mr. Bailey, one of the curates of the Parish Church, was born when Dr. Bridgeman was Bishop of Chester. He was educated for the Church, lived in the midst of her trials and troubles, shared the idiosyncrasies of prevailing English creeds, was a Puritan or an Episcopalian according to his spiritual convictions, or, as some believed, as it seemed best for his temporal good. Some writers have spoken harshly of him, but it should not be forgotten that he lived in an age when sycophancy was the recognised and fashionable ladder by which young men of ability climbed to fortune, and that just as he had reached manhood this social evil began to die out, so that the flattering tendency which his youthful nature had acquired changed with the changed custom. He was undoubtedly an example of men of intellectual ability and struggling ambition who cannot clearly see their way to success, and yet are determined to succeed. He had good talents, but was lacking in tact to see and seize his opportunity. With all his scholastic acquirements and innate capabilities he could neither grasp the condition of his age nor understand the bent of public opinion, which is one of the primary necessities of success This itself made him inconstant, and his constant failures gave a wavering tendency to his principles, although he did not digress into the footsteps

of men who, determined to succeed, sacrificed their principles to gain their ends, and yet retained that free-thinking principle that too easily persuades it is right to try whatever methods the mind, unaffected by conscience, suggests. man, Mr. Wilkins yearned for prosperity, and tried hard to succeed, but yet failed, and it is not to be wondered at that he turned to the devices of his age, and sought the patronage of men of influence by unbecoming, though to him necessary, To him this was an easily acquired habit, for he was of a pliable, easy, and hospitable disposition. It is an unhappy and degrading sight to witness a man of great intellectual ability fawn, like a cur, at the heels of an ignorant man of monetary influence, for then "wisdom stoops to folly;" but it is still worse when the cherished principles of rectitude are bartered for place and power, but this cannot be said of the young Mr. Wilkins, although he undoubtedly was blindly persuaded that his bold ambition had of necessity to stoop to conquer, and he stooped accordingly. Even sycophancy itself failed to elevate him, but he perceived that to dabble in science was to be popularly considered great, so he at once wrote an essay on the Moon, hoping thereby to have himself classed with Bacon, Galileo, or Columbus. His book had a great run, for it was full of speculation, as most books are when written by authors who are consciously ignorant of the subject of He simply followed the unguarded bent of an ambitious mind. He believed himself to be possessed of great intellect, capable of bringing him lasting renown and temporal wealth, and naturally it was his object to discover the road to success. At length he had succeeded. The patrons at whose feet he had been willing to kneel sought his acquaintance, and begged of him to accept their patronage, for, though there be few willing to help the struggling, there are millions who will worship the successful. One success begets another effort, and consequently Wilkins wrote another book, seemingly in vindication of the Copernican theory, for he had acutely and accurately discovered that the tastes of the age demanded philosophy or science, and no man, whatever his intellectual capacities, he perceived, need hope for literary success, except by writing to please the people and to gratify the tastes of his age, and the tastes of different ages are as variable as the tastes of individuals. Science and philosophy were the hobbies of this age, and even Royalty itself condescended to be an enthusiastic Scientist, and where the sun shines brightest there the butterflies most flutter about. Drinking, scientific research in a very crude state, philosophy which was then only the art of suggesting, fiddling, and dancing, were the fashions of the Then the Royal Society was robed in swaddling bands and rocked in its cradle, and Dr. Wilkins was one of its first members, and to be a hero of the hobbies was the height of his ambition; but the troubles of the revolution demanded for the king the entire attention of the members of the Royal Society. The Parliamentarians

succeeded, and Dr. Wilkins, momentarily eclipsed, signed the covenant, became a Puritan, and was rewarded by Cromwell with a living and a wife, in the person of his sister Robina Cromwell, in Oxford, where many of his fellow-philosophers still reasoned and doubted together. Cromwell and Fairfax paid them a visit, and were entertained by Wilkins, and they all played "bowls" on the lawn. His entertainments were after the fashion of Thomas à Becket during ten happy years of his life. fact that he was the brother-in-law of the seemingly invincible Protector was sure to put wealth in his way, had it not his marriage would doubtless have been a disappointment to him. Honour and wealth were heaped upon him, but Cromwell, his great brother-in-law and patron, died, and a new era opened for England, when all the Cromwellian favourites were brought down from their lofty eminences. So down came Dr. Wilkins and his wife Robina, and there was nothing for it but to declare himself a Royalist and an Episcopalian; but it was of no use, for Misfortune claimed him for her own, until his old friend, Dr. Ward, determined to take him by the hand, which he did, and obtained for him a chaplaincy in London, where Tillotson, afterwards Archbishop, who married the Bishop's step-daughter, was his curate or reader. Thus he was as successful after the Restoration in his turned coat as he had been before it. From one ecclesiastic honour he rose to another, and, on the untimely death of Bishop Hall, Rector of Wigan, he was appointed his successor, as bishop and rector, in 1668, being recommended to the trustees of Sir Orlando Bridgeman by the Duke of Buckingham, son of the royal favourite, George Villiers. He came to Wigan in the fifty-fourth year of his age, and these livings he held for four years, and died in London, November 29th, 1672. had many faults, but was very tolerant and unbigoted, which in those times was a great virtue.

CHAPTER VI.

Present Debt of the Borough—Salaries—Constables and Churchwardens—Churchwardens' Accounts—Early Life and Trials of Bishop Pearson: His Appointment to Wigan and Death at Chester—Legh Chapel given for Vestry—Act of Indulgence: Its Reception in Wigan—Churchwardens' Accounts from 1674 to 1678—Foxes and Hedgehogs—Elections of 1678-9—Bribery in Wigan—Petition of Alexander Rigby, Esq.—Geffrey Shackerley—New Monument in the Parish Church—Macaulay on the Wigan Address—Charter from James II.—Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder—New Powers of the Corporation—First Common Council—Foreigners—Copy of Resolution constituting first Common Council—Oaths of Common Council—Petition to be made a Freeman—Gatewaters—Petition of a Coverlet Weaver—Dogs—Case of Lowe and his Petition—Petition about a Hedge and Ditch—Councillors—Cleaning of the Streets—Stalls—New Bye-law as to size of Stalls—Protective Principles of the Borough in the Seventeenth Century—Petition to be made a Freeman—Petition Praying for Remission of Fine—Petition of a Pewterer—Petition of a Linen Webster—Trade Petition—An Army Petition.

HE greater the amount of debt the more extensively is one honoured with credit, and the town of Wigan has now the honour to be half a million in debt. There are now several thousands of pounds paid for the salaries of corporate officials alone, whereas two hundred years ago, before municipal credit had come into fashion, it might be said the town had neither debts nor salaries. According to the published accounts of the borough treasurer from March 26th, 1880, to March 25th, 1881, the sum paid for officers' salaries alone was £2,129 2s. 1d., whereas, according to the churchwardens' accounts, a few odd shillings per annum seemed to be the entire public expenditure in the seventeenth century. In the seventeenth century those who did not carefully attend to their own drainage and refuse were brought before the Court Leet and fined, but in 1880-81 the nightsoil department cost the borough £4077 12s.; street scavenging, £1,012 4s. 5d., besides sundry other hundred pounds for sewerage—

(Page 101, Accounts of the Treasurer, 1880-81). The magnitude of a national debt answers the question, "in what estimation is the nation held?" and individuals, boroughs, or nations credited with much easily receive credit for more, although inevitably but indubitably swamped in bankruptcy. Modern corporate bodies must have their municipal honours, and perhaps oftener pay for honours than for services rendered; yet two hundred years ago the honour of doing a public service was often all the honorarium received by officials, although the services were none the worse done. The borough rates were collected by the constables of the out-townships of the parish, and by the churchwardens and bailiffs in the borough. The receipts and disbursements passed through the hands of the churchwardens, who were the representatives of the people. Their office was a They were borough treasurers, overseers, responsible though only an honorary one. poor law guardians, &c., and had to account for every penny, and yet had no Their accounts, by no means graphically or too legibly emoluments of their own. written, are happily preserved, and a summary of a few years is here preserved as the best witnesses of local history of the period.

Their accounts for 1670 show that the receipts were £44 8s. 8d., and the disbursements £44 11s. 1d. The accounts were seen, examined, allowed, and signed by Myles Turner, the "maior;" John Rawler, curate; John Gerarde, Raphe Browne, Ra. Markland, &c. The principal disbursements were for fox heads (1s. a head) and hedge hogs (2d. each). These are the chief items also in 1671, when Thomas Leyland and Ra. Rothwell were churchwardens. In 1672 there is a very lengthy ledger, almost entirely filled up by disbursements for fox heads and hedge hogs, the receipts then being £46 6s. 9d., and the disbursements £42 2s. 10d. The churchwardens were Geo. Browne and R. Culcheth.

John Pearson was the eldest son of Robert Pearson, Rector of Snoring and Creake, in Norfolk, and afterwards Archdeacon of Suffolk. His mother was the daughter of Dr. Richard Vaughan, successively Bishop of Bangor, Chester, and London. He received the most orthodox and the best classical education. Even in boyhood he was studious, retired, and meditative, although by no means of a melancholy temperament. At the age of ten he went to Eton, where he remained for seven years (1631). From thence he proceeded to Queen's College, Cambridge, and was almost immediately elected a scholar of King's College. His life at college shows that the thirst for knowledge had almost become a mania with him. His constant companions were classic authors and theological writers. He knew the history and habits of the ancients better than the customs of his own time, and admired their intelligence and intellectual labour more. At this early age, when the hopeful ambition of youth is high, and the ways of the world not yet learned by experience, he determined to become a useful member of society, and was gravely

and greedily storing up information that might be of use to him in fighting his intellectual, moral, and religious battles. He believed a solid fundamental education to be the only road to success, and he loved his probationary career. He was an enthusiast for book-knowledge, and, moreover, he understood and appreciated what While men of his own age, equally ambitious, but without application, were wasting their evenings in ribald gossip or Bacchanalian pleasures, he was courting the classic Nine and enjoying intellectual feasts from books that are the representatives of names that never die. He burned the midnight oil to his advantage when others were dreaming the happy hours away. Cole, in his MSS., vol. I, p. 165, says of him: -- "Certain it is that such was the bishop's propensity to books and knowledge while a school boy that all the money he could get went for his improvement. He hardly, it is said, even in those early days, allowed himself time for natural rest, for when the compositor, at ten o'clock at night, saw that all the candles, according to rule, were put out in the long chamber or dormitory, he would contrive to light up his within an hour or two after, when all the boys were asleep: and by this means it is affirmed that before he left Eton he had read most of the Greek and Latin Fathers of the Church." Allen, in his MS., Eton College, says: -- "Our famous Pearson was a very hard student at college, and, finding that the fireside diverted the intention of his thoughts and dulled his spirits, he avoided coming as near it as possible, contented to sit close to his books, with a blanket thrown over his shoulders." Like that of many others in his day, his was a life of strange vicissitude and religious fortitude. The time of the Great Rebellion was a time of great tribulation to the clergy; ability, purity, and godliness went for nothing when politics were adverse. That Church and State would cling together was not only a Conservative but a national idea, yet to be a staunch Churchman was often sufficient to ensure ejectment. The learned theologian, Pearson, endured persecution and comparative penury with his clerical brethren. Impoverished clergy were the most common of all beggars, for others who were able-bodied unhesitatingly took to the sword. Thrown out of lucrative livings for conscience sake, many of them became straggling chaplains in the Royalist army, and were even glad to have In the prime of life the such opportunities of gaining the necessaries of life. orthodox and learned Pearson became chaplain to Lord Goring, and with him experienced the hardships of life on the field of death. When Bishop Wilkins died in 1672 he was, at the age of sixty, presented to the Bishopric of Chester and the Rectory of Wigan by the trustees of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, which honourable and lucrative livings he held until his death, which took place fourteen years afterwards. The following letter is from an original document in the Tanner MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (vol. 144, f. 34), and published in "Local Gleanings," vol. I.:—

Charles R.

Our Will and Pleasure is, That you forthwith grant your Lycense and Dispensacon to the Right Reverend Father in God, John, Lord Bishop of Chester, to hold the Rectory of Wiggin, in the County of Lancaster and Diocesse of Chester, and the Arch Deaconry of Surry, with the said Bishopprick of Chester. For which this shall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the 15th day of January, in the 24th yeare of Our Reigne, 1672-3.

By his Masts. command,

ARLINGTON.

To the Most Reverend Father in God, Gilbert, Lord Arch Bishop of Canterbury.

To him, as to many others, the Restoration was as the dawn of a new day after a long dark night full of trouble. It was the period when his lucky star rose from behind the threatening horizon, and steadily ascended to its zenith, increasing in brilliancy as it rose, and retaining that brightness until suddenly, a few years before his death, it set with his brilliant intellect enveloped in the blackness of darkness, all memory being lost, and the great theologian and mighty man of mental valour as helpless as a little child. But his work was done, and well done, too. He was not only an ornament and honour to Wigan, but to his country, as well as a faithful and useful servant of the Church. He was an arduous and successful writer, an excellent preacher, whose sermons were so clear, fascinating, and full of truth that he was frequently requested to publish them, the king himself once making such a request. Burnet says he was in "all respects the greatest divine of his day," and Dr. Bentley declared that "his very dross was gold." In 1657 a very interesting and instructive conference was carried on in writing by him and Gunning, afterwards Bishop of Ely, with two Papists on the subject of schism. Part of the correspondence was published in 1658 in Paris by one of the Roman Catholics, although an agreement had originally been mutually entered into that nothing should be made public. The publication was called "Schism Unmasked: A Late Conference." One of Pearson's writings, "An Exposition of the Creed," published in 4to., 1659, is a work still recognised by divines as of great value. It was published at the request of his parishioners in London, has run through more than a dozen editions, and is considered "one of the most finished pieces of theology in our language." beautiful specimen of elegant and forcible English is given in his "Golden Remains of the ever-memorable Mr. John Hales, of Eton." Pearson was presented by Juxon. Bishop of London, to the Rectory of St. Christopher's, created a D.D. of Cambridge, made Prebendary of Ely, Archdeacon of Surrey, Master of Jesus College, successor

to Dr. Love in the Margaret Professorship, Cambridge; nominated a Commissioner for the review of the Liturgy in the Conference of Savoy, where he was acknowledged to be the ablest and most candid opponent of the Nonconformists; admitted a Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Fellow of the Royal Society—all before being presented to the Rectorship of Wigan and Bishopric of Chester. He died at Chester, July 16th, 1686, aged 74 years.

Whilst he was Bishop and Rector the north aisle of the Parish Church, which had hitherto been the Legh Chapel, was handed over to him and the churchwardens to be used as a vestry. Robert Legh, living three generations before the donor, Sir Peter Legh, of Lime, and who had been wounded at Agincourt in 1415, had married the heiress of Norley, in Pemberton, and with her obtained the "Lordship and Manor of Norley or North Legh, within the Parish of Wigan," and thus commenced the long connection with Wigan of the influential family of Legh. When this chapel of theirs was given over to be used as a vestry, the churchwardens were "John Keeling, of Wigan, gentleman, and William Blackburn, of Blackleyhurst, in the parish of Wigan, gentleman." It was given because "the Parish Church of Wigan is destitute and at want of a vestry," and on condition that the donor, Richard Legh, should be allowed to "erect, set up, and repair one decent and convenient gallery or loft for him, his heirs, and assigns, to sit, stand, and kneel in to hear Divine service and sermon." The signature of the Bishop has been cut away by some vandal from this document now in the Parish Church vestry.

When tyrants are brought to bay they are even more humble and fawning than ordinary cowards. The forbearing and farseeing man, although having dignity, stands not upon it with haughty indignation like a strutting peacock, but the man of little authority and less intellectual ability, whom the force of fortunate circumstances has forced above his superiors, is generally the most unbearable of all despots, despicable to his equals, the sycophant of his superiors, and the would-be slave-driver of his circumstantial inferiors who unfortunately are directly dependent on him for the necessaries of subsistence. The Stuarts held the most tyrannical and suicidal beliefs, yet had often to drink the very dregs of humiliation, and sometimes their royal contrition was so great that the nation became buoyed up by the hopes of better things, though the royal acts of restitution that it often fondly anticipated came to nothing. Alas for the hopes of people anxious to hope and willing to forgive. No sooner had disloyal clouds passed away and the sun shone than the Stuarts were Stuarts again, and the people made aware they were the dupes of their In 1672 such good and bright prospects opened before the gaze of sanguine Englishmen, and all Wigan rejoiced, and paid special fees for the ringing of good tidings. The Act of Indulgence was passed, and men and women were virtually

acknowledged to have consciences that could decide between right and wrong independent of the royal will. Freedom of speech, and, greater still, liberty to worship according to one's own conviction, was granted by a royal edict. The proclamation, as usual, was made in the Market Place of Wigan, and Presbyterian and Episcopalian alike rejoiced, for all, except bigots, were sick at heart of the wrangling of ages. Special licence was granted by the king, Charles II., for Presbyterians to hold their religious meetings in the town, and soldiers were called upon to do all in their power to keep them from being molested. What a change from the times of Fleetwood, and what a poor concession compared with the state of matters now.

Almost every prison in England had some Puritan within its gloomy walls, and yet their cause seemed to prosper like a political agitation that no unreasonable Legal force carried out the behests of bigoted zeal; leniency force can destroy. had only meant want of Christian faith. But persistent agitation of able men brought enthusiasm to reason, and a strong feeling was growing amongst politicians that severity towards the Puritans was undeserved and far too unchristianlike. The Cabinet meeting was summoned in 1672 to consider the grave social crisis. moderation might have been favourably received, only Ministers could not at first agree to any definite line of procedure, as their own convictions were not at once publicly supported by national sympathy. When the Cabinet met during the recess, and it was proposed that a Bill of Indulgence should be passed, giving certain liberties to Dissenters, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, of Wigan, being Lordkeeper, resolutely opposed and refused to attach the royal seal to the Bill. His reasons for so strongly objecting proceeded from his fixed belief that the Papists would claim the same prerogatives as Episcopalians, and so would attain their old powers. A compromise was arrived at that Romanists should be allowed to worship in their own houses, and other dissenters in licensed houses. The Bill was as welcome as it was unexpected, especially in Lancashire. Puritans who had spent many years in prison were set free to preach the gospel they had studied in seclusion. Special licences were granted for conducting services in private houses, barns, or other convenient places in Wigan, as in the other neighbouring towns. There were 3,500 licences taken out for England, 185 of those being for Lancashire. Great was the joy of the people at the signs of the new dawn of liberty. Well disposed men liked the practical part of the gospel of "Peace and good will to all men," but there were growlers and doubters who murmured their fears that affairs were too good to last. Still the licences were issued, and hopes brightened, and even grumblers began to hide their diminished heads until Parliament met the next year. On the conduct of the Cabinet being taken into consideration it was there and then declared by 168 to 116 votes "That penal statutes in matters Ecclesiastical could not be suspended but by Act of Parliament." Thus the Act of the Cabinet was declared illegal, and the one year old Bill was cancelled to the utter dismay of quondam jubilant Dissenters.

In 1674 £25 3s. 11d. was received from the bailiffs of the "burrow" and constables of the parish. The disbursements were for fox-heads, hedgehogs, bread, wine, and doles, to the amount of £25 9s. The accounts were seen, allowed, and signed by R. Baron, maior, A. Langton, William Daniell, Robert Walthew, Nic. Pennington, James fforde, Robert Litherbarrow, George Browne, Chas. Legh, and Robert Markland. In 1675 bread, wine, fox-heads, hedgehogs, oil (oyle), and ropes for the bells are the chief items of a long account, amounting to the sum "totall" of £21 14s. 9d., and allowed and signed by Nic. Pennington, maior, Roger Bradshaigh, A. Langton, Sam. Shaw, curate, Robert Baron, Ra. Markland, James fforde, Ja. Gerrant, and Robert Litherbarrow—(C. W. Accounts).

Mr. Peter Bradshaw, the Popish priest at Brynne Hall, was this day (8th March, 1675) interred at Wigan. He was uncle to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh—(Parish Registers).

Master Reynard of the present day has quite an aristocratic life, and is a source of great national sport, but in the seventeenth century he seems to have had hard times of it in Wigan. The whole parish must have been overrun by foxes, for year after year the churchwardens' accounts are full of the "price set upon his head," proving that they must have been a great nuisance, and that there was a firm determination to stamp them out. Haigh, Winstanley, and Billinge were specially infested. The hedgehog, which is considered a harmless, if not useful, animal, was little less troublesome. No less than 264 heads of foxes were paid for by the churchwardens in 1676; indeed the long list of disbursements is of the following nature:—

Pd. Raph W. de Haigh, for 1 hedgehog, 2d. Pd. Peter Winstanley, for 1 hedgehog, 2d.

Pd. Sam. Naylor, for 1 fox-head, 1s.

In 1677 hedgehog disbursements almost fill the churchwarden accounts. The receipts for that year were good, and were as follow:—

		0 ,							
Received	of	the Bailiffs of	Wigan			•••	£12	0	0
"		Constables	of Ince			• • • •	2	0	0
"		23	Hind	lley	•••		3	14	8
"		"	Haig	h		•••	3	0	0
"		"	Dalto		•••		2	0	0
"		"	Holla	and	•••		4	0	0
"		"	Billin	age		•••	2	13	4
"		"		tanle	y		1	6	8
"		,,	Orrel	1	•		2	0	0
"		,,	Aspu	ıll			3	0	0
"		,,		bertoi	a		2	5	8
Received	for	an old Bell Wh	eel. from	Gilber	t H	olm		_	_
and Nicholas Atherton, chapellwardens of Upholland						0	5	0	

The first entries for 1677 in the churchwardens' accounts (C. W., Robert fford and Adam Hindley), are "Paid unto William Scott, for casting (kosting) the first Bell, £10 10a."

To John Mahaloy, for going to Holland with a letter to Mr. Leigh about the Poor Bread, 4d.

To James Banks, clerk, for Washing the Church Linens and Sweeping the Church, £1 10s.

For Oyle (oil) for yo Bells, 1s. 6d.

The bells and ropes gave great trouble, seemingly, as they were frequently repaired and renewed.

First baptism regist., 21st Nov., 1580:-

November 21-Rauffe Snarte, f. James S. de Wigan.

22-Thomas highen, f. Thomas highen de.

24—Richard harte, f. Tho. h. de houghto'.

December 4-Margaret fforde, f. James ff. de Scowles.

First twins, 11th Dec., Wilm. John Croichloe, f. Gefferie C. de Wigan.

In 1660 Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh, Royalist, was member for the county, and in 1678 he sat with Lord Antrim, as member for Wigan, and was knighted the same year and created a baronet in 1679.

An accot. of ye disbursements of Robt. Browne and Thomas Winstanley, churchwardens, beginning 1678, Aprill ye 3rd, and ending Aprill ye 22nd, 1679:—

Pd. John Roper, for 5 yds. of Rope	•••	•••	£0	5	0
" for takeing up of the 3rd Bell	•••	•••	0	3	0
" John Smith, for work in the Steeple	•••		0	4	8
" for Nails	•••	•••	0	0	2
" Wm. Grimshawe, of Haigh, for six Fox Heads	• • •	•••	0	6	0
" John Carter, a Rope for 3rd Bell			0	3	6
" Adam Walthew, for 1 Fox Head			0	1	0
" for the Commission and Court Fees			0	15	0
" Adam Gregory, for 2 Fox Heads			0	2	0
" Edw. Chisnall, for 1 Fox Head	•••	•••	0	1	0
"Wine and Bread at Whitsuntide		•••	0	13	2
", ye Sexton, for Guttering Churchyarde			0	3	0
" for 3 Fox Heads, to Wm. Grimshawe			0	3	0
", ye Clerke, his Wages		•••	1	10	0
" for takeing upp the great Bell		•••	0	2	6
" Jno. Carter, for the 4th Bell Rope			0	3	9
" Mending the 3rd Bell Rope			0	1	4
" for a Fox Head which came out of Billinge			0	3	0
" John Carter, for 5 new Bell Ropes	•••	• • •	1	12	0
" for Ringing the 5th of Nov., and Candles	•••		0	10	5
", " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "			-	-	

Was ever man known to be satisfied, and was ever a nation at perfect peace? One would almost think that the revolutionary troubles which England had managed to survive would have left it in such a state of exhaustion as to compel a state of rest, and give it an appearance of peace. The nation had been fighting long and earnestly for gains—real or imaginary—but had they been obtained? One side had certainly been defeated, and the other doubtfully victorious. The revolutionary party had succeeded in swaying the national will in what they considered the right direction, but ambition grew with their success, against which opposition as naturally reared its head, and very soon discontent again over-ran the whole exhausted state. Forbearance was unknown to the religious parties, who attempted to force their opinions through their political demands, and there was a steady growth of court arrogance. Nobody in power seemed to have the power of pleasing anybody, and already it seemed that a new revolution was on the eve of springing up. As usual a Parliament was summoned.

The Parliament of 1661 was not dissolved till January 24th, 1679, after which writs were issued for a general election. In Wigan there was great excitement. The burgesses discovered that their freeholds were mines of wealth. Bribery they had persuaded themselves was neither a secret nor a sin. Political corruption had hitherto no place in any English dictionary. The old burgesses chinked in their trousers pockets the gold which they had accepted from the highest bidders, and, for the first time, divided their freeholds and sold the votes that went with each portion. Pamphlets were scattered broadcast, but never touched the consciences of those who had fingered the gold. There was virtually a political auction in the town, and the highest bidder won the day. Two Tories were returned—Charles, Earl of Ancrum. Three candidates had gone to the poll, and the and Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh. defeated one, Alexander Rigby, Esq., petitioned against the return, but with what The Parliament was dissolved July 1st of the same year, and result is unknown. There was another contest in Wigan, and the writs again issued for a Parliament. burgesses were in the highest spirits at the prospect of two political harvests in one Was there to be any change in political opinion? Money would decide all. There could be little conscientious change in eight short months. Their freeholds were their birthrights, and surely they could make political capital out of them. This was their determination, and the auction began. Whig and Tory overbid each other, and prices ran high, and finally one of each party was sent up. Bradshaigh was ousted by William Bankes, a Whig. Such was the result of the general election in Wigan for the fourth Parliament of Charles II. The excitement and sales at the election of the fifth and last Parliament of that king were similar in their progress and results.

Mr. Shackerley, who had been returned in the election of 1661, is said to have

been "a red-hot Cheshire Royalist," who suffered heavily in purse and person under Cromwell for his adherence to Royalty. At the Restoration he was made governor of Chester, and died, at the age of 78, October 17th, 1696. The new member, Roger Bradshaigh, was the eldest son of the first baron of Haigh Hall. He was born March, 1678, and succeeded his father, as baronet, 1st March, 1648; sat for the county, 1685-87; and died 17th June, 1687.

At different periods in the annals of Wigan history gifts have been made to the Corporation, and two of the oldest known still preserved are a copper mace surmounted by a crown, and a silver ewer or jug, bearing the inscription, "The gift of Robert Mawdesley, 1631; renewed 1680, by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and again by James Hodson, Esquire, for the use of the Mayor of Wigan and his successors." Robert Mawdesley held no office in the Corporation. Sir Roger was Mayor when he presented the gift to the town, and James Hodson was twice Mayor-1786 and 1789. The next gift in the list of municipal insignia is a gold mace, surmounted by a crown emblazoned with the borough arms and the arms of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, and is thus inscribed: "Rex. Carolus, F.D., Mag., Brit., Fra., et Hib. The gift of Alexander Holt, Esquire, late of London, Gouldsmith, an Alderman of the same Cytty, and likewise of this ancient Corporation of Wigan, who departed this Huic, dono decem muias adiccit, Alexander Holt, nêpos life Anno Domini 1657. Ejusdem et Executor. Testamentarius."

Papists were at one time the drivers, then with the suddenness of the changing Every dog has its day, and now the king, some bishops and wind became the driven. righteous rectors and the holy of the laity, as if they were the licensed hounds of Heaven, literally believing in the infallibility of the king and his law, hunt all Dissenters to the verge of death. National fanaticism is again let loose, and the greatest religion of peace is roused to arms with the full intention of exterminating nonconformity, which in its turn bribes conformity with gloves of gold and casks of Wild beasts are exterminated by the progress of civilisation, but no physical ale. However much they were persecuted, force will convince a man against his will. Nonconformists were Nonconformists still. They met in secret in the fields, the gardens, cellars, and attics by midnight and at early morn. Persecution fostered their It was so in Wigan as in other places. During these despotic times six of the Rectors of Wigan were also Bishops of Chester, some of whom suffered and The Act of Sequestration had been passed, and some of whom were persecutors. Bishop Bridgeman was not the only Wiganer who suffered. Nor was sequestration confined to his gentle class. In such national robberies the poor are not worth robbing, and the rich are at least always worth suspecting, and to be once suspected was the certain forerunner of suffering. High and low, rich and poor,

suffered more for their sanctity than their sin. A religious war is, if possible, always worse than an ordinary civil war. People were persecuted until their human nature proved stronger than their religious zeal, and then there was open rebellion and mutual death, for the principle of self-preservation refuses to yield without a struggle.

When looked at from a worldly point of view, the religion of many of the Puritans was nothing less than a mere farce. From diaries and histories of the period their conduct is well known. A truthful history of Wigan and the neighbourhood might be written for the period of 1663-78 from the contents of the diary of Roger He was a devout Puritan, who never lost an opportunity of listening to the words of the wise and the sermons of the righteous, always taking careful He could write and talk well, and, consequently, was very notes of the same. popular with all parties. On an average of two or three times a week his history was briefly, that he never lost an opportunity of treating his lady friends to ale at taverns, or of being treated there by the buxom mothers of marriageable daughters, or of getting drunk at the expense of his comrades, and getting almost insensibly home to spend a toper's sleepless night, and wake with dreadful headache and remorseful conscience which kept him on his knees, praying for mercy and deliverance from pain, for many hours of the next day. If this was not sufficient medicine, he generally felt happy after praying in a ditch or singing hymns at the pitch of his voice. He was always grieved at being foolish enough to spend 6d. at the public-house on sports of vanity. He makes frequent mention of two people riding together on one horse, the owner of the horse, whether man or woman, always sitting in front. On the Lord's Day, 29th January, 1662, he came to Wigan, but when he returned home he was scarcely well, for he had stopped drinking at Beony Bourdekin's house. Sunday seemed to be the great day for drinking, which, however, had very much increased since Sunday sports had been prohibited by Mr. Fleetwood. Appointments between lads and lasses of respectable families were generally made at the taverns. After a great Bacchanalian night Mr. Lowe had to chew the cud of remorseful reflection, for next morning he confessed, "I was sadly sick, and had a very sick night, but the Lord restored me in the morning." That was Tuesday morning, and one would think he would have taken the pledge forthwith, but he was such a jolly good fellow that on Friday morning next, when "John Naylor's wife (whose daughter Mr. Lowe was courting) came to town and wished me to go with her into an alehouse-I went." There was the usual consequence-reflection, remorse, and re-conversion. He was a good specimen of a humanly-frail Puritan.—(See Lowe's

Can it be imagined that men would quietly submit to unjust torture and robbery

under the guise of justice? Could civilised human nature yield to have her lawful liberties trodden under foot and her sacred creeds treated with worse than disdainful contempt, and yet remain callous? Is it possible for a conscientious and educated nation to be physically compelled to believe, or is it possible to stamp out vindicators of truth as if it were a murrain among helpless cattle? Is it credible that men would yield liberty and truth to bigotry and moral slavery and ignominy? were risings in every town in England: not risings that simply meant what nineteenth century agitations mean, but such as meant rebellion and death. hard for human nature to confine itself to inactive agitation against armed and wilful injustice that knows no mercy even to the submissive, who are punished as awful examples. The agitating voice of Wigan was prominent among others, but the force used by the inhabitants went no further than to the disfiguring of faces and breaking of limbs of the representatives of injustice. The properties and livings of the Rector of Wigan, who was Bishop of Chester (Dr. Bridgeman), had been sequestrated 36 years before (1645), but this was near the beginning of the struggle, which had been going on with increased ferocity, until now the people could bear no longer, but determined that they would oppose the very next execution of the law, whether for Many of the burgesses and the best people of the town had joined the league, and now the day of trial came. On the 22nd of July, 1681, the furniture and goods of Mrs. Bennington, a worthy dame of the town, were brought to the Market Place, to be sold to the highest bidder by the public auctioneer, because of her nonconformity, exactly 110 years after the great persecutor of her creed, Edward Fleetwood, had been presented to the living of Wigan. He had been dead for 77 years, but the persecution had gone on with growing animosity. bailiffs seized and carried away Mrs. Bennington's goods without opposition, but before they had reached the place of public sale they were met by a band of rough and determined men, dressed in women's clothes by way of disguise. organised and brought together by old Dr. Worthington and his son Thomas, two of the first-mentioned physicians of Wigan. The bailiffs looked on in amazement, and attempted to pass on, but there was no passage. The men in female attire set upon the bailiffs, beat them unmercifully, and restored the goods to the worthy widow. Of course Mrs. Kenyon, who had employed the bailiffs, in wild passion let loose the dogs of war, and took out several indictments against the doctors, but they had both They were accused of encouraging the riot, of taking part therein, of seducing persons to Popery, and, lastly, they were to be suppressed from practising physic. All the indictments were preferred against them at the Wigan Sessions, and warrants were issued to apprehend the doctors, but unfortunately history does not record whether they were ever apprehended.

The Call Book for 1681 contains only the following names, but no records of the cases which came before the Court are preserved:—

Rogerus Bradshaigh, ald., barr., maior. Rogerus Bradshaigh, alid, ald. Willus Daniel, dr., ald. Robert Baron, gen., ald. Willus Glover, gen., ald. Radus Markland, gen., ald. Robtus Langshaw, gen., ald. Willus Lsithwaite, gen., ald. Robtus Letherbarrow, gen., ald. Thomas Bancks, gen., ald. Lawrus Anderton, sen., gen., ald. Robtus fford, gen., ald. Thomas Stortt, dr., record. Ambrosus Jolly, gen. Willus Pilkington, gen. Johes Harvey, gen. Petrus Adlington, dr. Lawrus Anderton, jun., cas. clir. Lawrus Anderton, baf. Thomas Marsden, baf. Johes Markland, jur. Edrus ffairethough, sero. Willus Brown, jur. Jacobus Molineux, attor., jur. Edmundus Harvey, jur. Mort Willus ffordde, Swinley. Robertus Pennington, brazier, jur. Craferus Sumner, jur. Honrius Rowe, gen. Willus Briggs, jur.

Willus Langshaw, jur. Willus Linney, jur. Jacobus Stott, jur. Robtus Murray, gen., jur. Thomas fforde, jun. Gerardus fforde. Willus Dean. Thomas fforde, sen. Jacobus Marsden. Thomas Cooper, jur. Willus fforde, butcher, jur. Jacobus fford. Georgius Browne. Carolus Leigh, jur. Gilbertus Langshaw. Thomas Leyland, jur. Willus Higham, jur. Radus Wakfeild. Robtus Bancks, jur. Ricus Brocks. Johes Baldwine, jur. Robtus Mason, jur. H. Bancks, jun., jur. Robtus Browne. Ritus Leterbarrow. Gilbertus fford. Alexandrus Pennington, jur. Thomas Bullock. Rogere Bibby, jur. Jacobus Bancks, jur.

Another conspicuous monument was added to the Parish Church in 1684. The inscription is:—"Rogerus Downes de Wardley, armiger, filius Johannis Downes, hujus Comitatus, Armigeri, Obijt 27 Junij, 1676. Ætatis Suæ 28."

A Bill to exclude the Duke of York, brother of Charles II., from the succession was twice passed in the House of Commons, once hotly contested in the House of Lords, and lost on a division. The popular political leaders were determined he should never reign, for he was a declared Papist and civil despot. Notwithstanding the fury of the feeling against him in his brother's lifetime, he quietly succeeded him in 1685. Scarcely had he ascended the throne when he began to experience the plots and counterplots that seemed to be the inevitable inheritance of the Stuarts. The soured Calvinistic tempers of the Whigs threatened to lay Whiggism in an early grave. Plot after plot was laid to their charge when they could not be traced to them or

to others. Many of the more lukewarm of them rushed for safety into the arms of loyal Toryism. At the general election of 1685 cajolery and intimidation were tried in the boroughs. Wigan, with her nine royal charters, was anxious not to lose the Within her borough "Toryism and the opportunity of boasting of her loyalty. King" was virtually her election cry. She determined to speak with the king in person, and then prove her loyal speech by her deeds. An address was drawn up, and signed by the burgesses of the town, headed by her Tory Mayor, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, and presented to the king. The language was of the most flattering kind, and might have been borrowed from the king's pedantic father. rehearsal of her loyalty and malignancy were not forgotten in it. But Wigan had two bolts to her bow in this address. Not only did she wish, as she thought of the low estimation and humiliation which many other boroughs had brought on themselves, to express her sympathy for and devotion to his king's majesty, and assure him that she "would defend him against all plotting Achitophels and rebellious Absoloms"-(Macaulay, vol. I., chap. 4, p. 374)-but also besought a ratification of her charters. As a proof of her loyalty, she enthusiastically returned two Tory members at the general election in May. They were Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Lord Charles Murray, son of the Marquis of Lothian, and son-in-law of Lord Derby, the seat being gained chiefly by the influence of the latter. With a tincture of characteristic pedantry, the new charter grants "that for ever in times to come that borough may be and remain a borough of peace and quiet, to the fear and terror of the bad and for the protection and preservation of the good." A new and unlimited extension of the franchise was granted in this charter, but never claimed until the general election of 1830, when the right of the inhabitants to vote was disputed, although never settled, because of the passing of the Reform Bill in the interim. At that election (1830) party spirit ran high, and all were eager to make their election claims. The candidates were James Hardcastle, of Bolton, and Richard Potter, of Manchester, Colonel James Lindsay, There were less than a hundred burgesses in all, and and John Hodson Kearsley. they claimed the full and only right of returning members of Parliament. inhabitants, on the other hand, declared they had an equal right to vote, and based their claims on the articles of this charter. Opinions differed, and it was agreed that several inhabitants who were not burgesses should vote, and that the question of their right to do so should be raised and settled in the House of Commons. Over a hundred inhabitants voted; Colonel Lindsay and Mr. Hodson were declared duly elected by his Worship the Mayor, Henry Bullock; but Mr. Potter protested against the return as unjust and illegal, and an appeal was lodged. This charter of 1685 says: -- "We . . . do will, ordain, appoint, and grant and declare that our Borough of Wigan, in our County of Lancaster, be and remain for ever hereafter a Borough of itself. And that by force of these presents the Inhabitants (Inhabitantes) of the Borough of Wigan aforesaid for the time to come for ever be and remain, in reality, fact, and name, one Body Corporate and Politic, by the name of Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Wigan."

The following is a complete copy of the original Charter of 1mo. Jacobi II.:-

"Jacobus Secundus Dei gratia Angliæ Scotiæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex. fidei defensor et cætera Omnibus ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint Salutem:—Cum Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastræ est Burgus antiquus ac Major et Burgenses ejusdem Burgi per diversa separlia nomina diversis liberatibus franchesiis immunitatibus consuetudinibus præheminenciis et aliis hæreditamentis habuerunt usi et gavisi fuerunt ac habent utuntur et gaudent, tam per diversas Chartas et Literas patentes diversorum Progenitorum et Antecessorum nostrorum nuper Regum et Reginarum Angliæ et aliorum, quam racione diversarum præscripcionum et consuetudinum tempore cujus contrarii memoria Hominis non existit in eodem Burgo usitatarum habitarum et approbatarum. Cumque Delicti Subditi nostri nuperi Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi illius humillime supplicaverint, quatenus nos, pro meliori regimine et melioracione ejusdem Burgi gratiam et munificenciam nostram eisdem Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti in hac parte gratiosè exhibere et extendere volumus Quodque nos dictos Majorem Balivos et Burgenses dicti Burgi per quodcunque nomen seu quacunqe nomina antehac incorporati fuerunt, sive utrum antehac incorporati fuerint necne, in unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ per literas nostras patentes facere erigere constituere ratificare confirmare seu de novo creare dignaremus cum talibus addicionibus et alteracionibus libertatum privillegiorum immunitatum et franchesiarum ejusdem Burgi et in talibus modo et forma qualibus pro meliori regimine et melioracione Burgi prædicti nobis videbitur expedire. Nos Igitur præmissa perpendentes ac volentes quod de cætero unus certus et indubitatus modus in eodem Burgo nostro de et pro custodia pacis nostræ ac Regimine et Gubernacione populi nostri ibidem continuo habeatur Et ut Burgus ille perpetuis futuris temporibus sit et permaneat Burgus Pacis et Quietis ad formidinem et terrorem Malorum et in proteccionem et preservacionem Bonorum Ac etiam ut pax nostra cæteraque facta Judiciaria absque ulteriori dilatione ibidem custodiri et fieri valeant, de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris, Voluimus ordinavimus constituimus concessimus et declaravimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus ordinamus constitumus et concedimus et declaramus quod Burgus noster de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ sit et permaneat impostorum ımperpetuum Burgus de se. Et quod Inhabitantes Burgi de Wigan prædicti de cætero imperpetuum sint et permaneant vigore præsentium unum Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine per nomen Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ, Ac eos et Successores suos per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu nostro Lancastrize Corpus Corporatum et Politicum in re facto et nomine realiter et ad plenam, pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris erigimus facimus ordinamus confirmamus constituimus et declaramus per præsentes, et quod per idem nomen habeant successionem perpetuam. Et Volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi illius et Successoribus suis prædictis quod 1981 et Successores sui per nomen Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu Lancastriæ plitare et implitari sectare et prosequi ac defendere et defendi respondere et responderi valeant et possint in ominibus curiis et locis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostorum ac in aliis Curiis et locis quibuscunque tam infra hoc Regnum nostrum Angliæ quam alibi infra alia Dominia nostra quæcunque existentibus, tam in omnibus et singulis accionibus secutionibus querelis causis et demandis realibus personalibus

seu mixtis, quam in omnibus et singulis aliis causis negotiis et materiis quibuscunque. Quodque idem Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui habeant et habebunt Commune Sigillum pro rebus causis et negotiis suis agendis et tractandis Et Quod bene liceat et licebit eis et Successoribus suis sigillum illud ad libitum suum de tempore in tempus frangere mutare et de novo facere, prout eis melius fieri et fore videbitur, Ac Ulterius quod iidem Major Balivi et Burgenses et Successores sui per nomem Majoris Balivorum et Burgensium Burgi de Wigan in Comitatu Lancastriæ sint et erunt Personæ habiles et in lege capaces ad perquirendum recipiendum habendum et capiendum eis et Successoribus suis in Feodo et perpetuitate vel pro termino vitæ vel vitarum vel annorum seu aliter Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Redditus reverciones hæreditamenta libertates franchesias jura jurisdicciones et privillegia quæcumque Ac etiam Bona et Catalla ac omnes alias res cujuscunque fuerint generis natures speciei seu qualitatis Necnon ad dandum concedendum dimittendum et assignandum eadem Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Hæreditamenta Bona et Catalla ac omnia alia facta et res faciendum et exequendum per nomen prædictum. Ac Etiam volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Suscessoribus per Præsentes concedimus przefatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi przedicti et Successoribus suis quod de czetero imperpetuum sit et erit in Burgo prædicto unus de magis probioribus et discrecioribus viris Burgi illius, in forma inferius in his præsentibus mencionata de tempore in tempus eligendus, qui erit et vocabitur Major Burgi illius. Quodque Similiter sit et erit unus alius de majis probioribus et discrecioribus viris Burgi illius in Legibus Angliæ eruditus qui erit et vocabitur Recordator Burgi prædicti. Quodque Similiter sint et erunt infra Burgum prædictum duodecim alii de magis probioribus et discrecioribus viris ejusdem Burgi, in forma etiam inferius mencionata de tempore in tempus eligendi, qui erunt et nominabuntur Aldermani Burgi illius. Quodque Similiter sint et erunt infra Burgum prædictum octodecim homines, de discrecioribus et probioribus viris, dicti Burgi qui erunt et vocabuntur Assistantes et auxiliantes dictis Majori Recordatori et Aldermanis ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus in causis et materiis eundem Burgum tangentibus. Et qui erunt et vocabuntur Capitales Burgenses ejusdem Burgi et erunt Commune Concilium dicti Burgi. Et duo honesti viri Burgi prædicti qui erunt et vocabuntur Balivi Burgi prædicti. Et volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentes concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui per eorum Commune Concilium, vel per majorem partem eorundum pro tempore existentium, habeant et habuerint plenam Authoritatem Potestatem et Facultatem condendi constituendi ordinandi faciendi et estabillendi de tempore in tempus tales et hujusmodi leges constituta jura ordinaciones et constituaciones, quas et que eis sive eorum parti majori pro tempore existentium bona salubria utilia honesta et necessaria, juxta eorum sanas discreciones, fore videbitur pro bonis regimine et gubernacione Majoris Recordatoris Aldermanorum et aliorum Capitalium Burgensium Balivorum ac omnium ac Burgensium et Inhabitantium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentium Ac per declaraciones quo modo et ordine prædicti Major Recordator Aldermani Capitales Burgenses Balivi ac cæteri omnes et singuli Ministri Officiarii Burgenses Artifices Inhabitantes et Residentes Burgi illius in Officiis Functionibus Misteriss et Negotiis suis infra Burgum prædictum ac libertates ejusdem pro tempore existentes sese habebunt gerent et utentur, ac aliter, pro ulteriori bono et publica utilitate et pro bono regimine Burgi illius ac victualacione ejusdem; Ac Etiam pro meliori preservacione gubernacione dispositione locacione et demissione Terrarum Tenementorum Possessionum reversionum et hæreditamentorum Burgi illius sue præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus ejusdem Burgi et Successoribus suis datarum concessarum seu assignatarum aut imposterum concedendarum dandarum aut assignandaruum Ac etiam ad rerum et causarum quarumcumque Burgi prædicti aut statuta jura et interesse ejusdem Burgi tangentium seu aliquo modo concernentium determinationem Quodque Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui per eorum Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existens vel eorum majorem partem quotiescunque hujusmodi leges instituta jura ordinaciones et constitutiones condiderint fecerint ordinaverint vel stabilaverint in forma prædicta hujusmodi et tales pænas puniciones et penalitates per fines et amerciamenta erga et super omnes delinquentes contra hujusmodi leges instuta jura ordinaciones constituaciones sive eorum aliquod vel aliqua quales et quæ eisdem Majori Recordatori Aldermanis et Communi Concilio pro tempore existentibus sive eorum majori parti necessaria et requisita pro observacione prædictorum legum ordinacionum et constitucionum melius fore videbitur facere ordinare limitare et providere ac eadem fines et amerciamenta levare et habere possint et valeant absque impedimento nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum. Quæ Omnia et singula leges ordinaciones constituciones jura et instituta sic, ut præfertur, facienda observari volumus sub pænis in eisdem continendis. Ita tamen quod leges ordinaciones instituta constituciones pænæ et penalitates hujusmodi non sunt repugnantia nec contraria sed consentanea Legibus et Statutis regni nostri Angliæ. Et pro meliori execucione earundem voluntatum et concessionum nostrarum in hac parte assignavimus nomniavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum nobis Rogerum Bradshaigh Militem Barronetum Burgensem Burgi prædicti fore et esse primum et modernum Majorum Burgi prædicti volentes quod idem Rogerus Bradshaigh in Officio Majoris Burgi prædicti erit et continuabit a dato præsentium usque ad diem Sabbati proximi post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli proximum futurum et de eodem die quousque alius Burgensis Burgi prædicti ad et in officium illud perfectus et juratus fuerit juxta ordinaciones et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas si idem Rogerus Bradshaigh tamdiu vixerit: Assignavimus etiam nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum nobis Bertye Entwisle Armigerum Burgensem Burgi prædicti fore et esse primum et modernum Recordatorem Burgi prædicti. Et Assignavimus nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus dictum Rogerum Bradshaigh et delictos nobis Willhelmum Daniell Amigerum Robertum Baron Willhelmum Glover Randulphum Markland Robertum Letherbarrow Thomam Bancks Thomam Turner Laurentium Anderton (Generosos) Robertum Ford Christopherum Sumpner Jacobum Scott et Willhelmum Deane fore et esse primos et modernos Aldermanos Burgi illius. Assignavimus etiam nominavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constitiumus et facimus delictos nobis Johannem Keeling et Willhelmum Langton fore et esse primos et modernos Balivos Burgi prædicti Et quod ipsi in Officio Ballivorum ejusdem erunt et permanebunt a dato presentium usque ad prædictum diem Sabbati proximi post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli prædictum et abinde quousque alii Burgenses Burgi prædicti ad et in officium illiud perfecti et jurati fuerint juxta ordinaciones et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas si iidem Johannes Keeling et Willhelmus Langton tamdiu vixerint. Necnon assignavimus nomninavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictum Subditum nostrum Laurentium Anderton, Juniorem, fore primum et modernum Clericum Burgi prædicti Clericum Statutorum mercatoriorum Coronatum Clericum Mercatuum et Ulnegarum Burgi illius atque ea omnia et singula faciendum et exequendum que ad separalia officia prædicta pertinent vel pertinere debent. Et Assignavimus ordinavimus constituimus et fecimus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris assignamus nominamus constituimus et facimus delictos Subditos nostros Johannem Markland et Edwardum Fairclough fore et esse primos et modernos Servientes Burgi prædicti a dato præsentium usque ad prædictum diem Sabbati proximum post Festum Sancti Michaëlis Archangeli prædictum et abinde quousque alii Burgenses Burgi prædicti ad et in Officium illiud perfecti et jurati fuerint secundum ordinaciones et provisiones in præsentibus inferius expressas et specificatas, si iidem Johannes Markland et Edwardus Fairclough tamdiu vixerint. Et Volumus et pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensıbus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus

suis Quod benè liceat et licebit Majori Recordatori et Aldermanis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus et majori parti eorum, quorum Majorem ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentem unum esse volumus, vigore presentium nominare et eligere octodecim de probioribus et discrecioribus viris Inhabitantibus Burgi illius fore et esse prædictos Assistantes Burgi prædicti, Qui Assistantes pro tempore existentes una cum prædictis Majore Recordatore et Aldermanis ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus sint et erunt vigore præsentium et facti et constituti sunt triginta duo Capitales Burgenses et Commune Concilium Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti. Et Volumus quod prædicti Recordator Aldermani et Capitales Burgenees superius nominati et electu nominandi et eligendi per Sacramenta sua in hac parte debita et secundum tenorem præsentium, respective possint sint erunt et continuabunt Recordator Aldermani Capitales Burgenses Assistantes et Commune Concilium Burgi illius pro et durante vitis suis naturalibus et vita naturali eorum cujus respective, nisi interim per mala factura sua in officio illo seu pro aliqua alia rationabili causa abinde amoveantur seu eorum aliquis amoveatur. Et Ulterius volumus et statuimus per præsentes quod Recordator Aldermani Balivi et Capitales Burgenses et Assistantes, Clericus et Servientes ad Stavos et omnes et Officiarii et Ministri Burgi prædicti nuper nominati, seu imposterum vigore præsentium no ninandi et eligendi, antequam ipsi ad execucionem Officiorum suorum respective admittantur seu eorum aliquis admittatur, separalia sua corporalia Super sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existente ad Officium illud respective in omnibus Officia sua respective tangentibus bene et fideliter exequendum præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta dandum et administrandum tam Recordatori Aldermanis Capitalibus Burgensibus Balivis Clerico et Servientibus per præsentes nominatis quam omnibus et cuilibet ac personæ et personis ejusdem Burgi vigore præsentium imposterum nominandis aut eligendis plenam potestatem aut Authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentes. Concessimus insuper ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens et ultimus prædecessor Majoris per præsentes nominati et quilibet ultimus prædecessor Majoris ejusdem Burgi imposterum per Spacium unius Anni ab et post exitum et decessum suum ab officio Majoris ejusdem Burgi respective necnon Recordator ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens sint et erint et quilibet eorum sit et erit Justiciarrii nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum prædictum libertates et præcinctus ejusdem custodiendum et conservandum ac plenam habeant et habebunt et quilibet eorum habeat et habebit potestatem et authoritatem ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum ibidem conservandum et ad omnia alia ibidem faciendum et exequendum que ad Justiciarios pacis nostræ aut Hæredum seu Successorum nostrorum in aliquo Comitatu nostro Angliæ pertinent facienda et exequenda pro bono pacis nostræ Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum et quieto regimine et sana gubernacione populi nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum in omnibus et singulis suis Articulis infra Burgum prædictum libertates et præcinctus ejusdem juxta vim formam et effectum statutorum et ordinaceonum in ea parte editorum custodiendorum et custodiri faciendorum, et ad omnes illos quos contra vim formam et effectum Statutorum et ordinaceonum ibidem invenerint facientes sive deliquentes secundum Statuta et ordinaciones illas ac leges terræ nostræ puniri faciendum ac ea omnia et singula audiendum et terminandum secundum Leges et Consuetudines Regni nostri Angliæ adeo plenè liberè et integrè ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout Justiciarii Pacis in dicto Comitatu nostro Lancastrise seu alibi infra regnum nostrum Angliæ ante hæc tempora habuerunt et exercuerunt seu legitime habere seu exercere poterint in futuro extra Burgum prædictum libertates præcinctus ejusdem. Et Ulterius volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod modernus Major Burgi illius per præsentes nominatus et quilibet alius Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens imposterum nominandus et eligendus respective sit et erit sint et erint Justiciaril nostri Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum in Comitatu nostro Lancastriæ custodiendum et conservandum et ad omnia alia faciendum exequendum et confirmandum que per Justiciarios pacis nostree Hæredum seu Successorum nostrorum infra eundum Comitatum per Leges et Statuta hujus Regni nostri Angliæ modo edita vel imposterum edenda fieri exequi aut performari possint aut debent Ac modernum Majorem Burgi prædicti per præsentes nominatum ac constitum ac omnes et quemlibet Majorem et Majores Burgi illius pro tempore existentes imposterum nominandos et eligendos Justiciarium et Justiciarios nostros Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Comitatum nostrum Lancastrize przedictum, ut przefertur, fieri et exequi possint aut debent, faciendum et exequendum facimus ordinamus et constituimus per præsentes. Et Ulterius volumus et per præsentes ordinamus et constituimus quod modernus Major Burgi prædicti superius nominatus antequam ipse in prædictis separalibus Officiis Majoris Justiciarii pacis nostræ Burgi illius et Justiciarii pacis pro Comitatu Lancastrize przedicto seu eorum aliquo aliqualiter agit seu se intromittit, separalia Sacramenta sua Corporalia super Sacerrimo sancto Dei Evangelio Coram Ricardo Standish Barroneto, Petro Brook Milite, Ricardo Atherton Melite, seu aliquibus duobus eorum, ad separalia Officia et Fiducias illas bene et fideliter in omnibus juxta Debitum Officiorum illorum respective exequendum præstabit. Quibusque dictis Ricardo Standish Petro Brook et Ricardo Atherton, ac aliquibus duobus eorum ad separalia Sacramenta prædicta præfato moderno Majori dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentes. Et Ulterius volumus et per præsentes ordinamus et constituimus quod ultimus prædecessor moderni Majoris modo et pro tempore existentes et Recordator prædictus, antequam in officium Justiciarii pacis nostræ Burgi prædicti libertatum et precinctuum ejusdem aliqualiter agant seu se respective intromittant, Sacramenta sua Corporalia super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore dicti Burgi de Wigan pro tempore existente ad officium illud bene et fideliter in omnibus juxta Debitum Officii illius exequendum præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori dicti Burgi de Wigan pro tempore existenti præfatis ultimo Prædecessori moderni Majoris et Recorditori prædictis pro tempore existentibus Sacramenta prædicta dandi et administrandi plenam potestatem et authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentes. Ac Etiem de ampliori gratia nostra ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentes concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Wigan et Successoribus suis Quod Major et Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes vel major pars eorum de tempore in tempus in quolibet Anno de cetero imperpetuum in die Sabbati proximo post Festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli annuatim conveniant et convenire valeant et possunt in Communi Aula ejusdem Burgi aut aliquo alio loco infra Burgum prædictum, et ibidem unam Personam de Aldermanis dicti Burgi pro tempore existentibus eligent et nominabunt fore et esse Majorem dicti Burgi ac unam aliam idoneam Personam existentem Burgensem ejusdem Burgi, quam eis magis convenientem videbitur, fore et esse Balivum dicti Burgi vocatum Le Town's Bayliffe ac talem aliam discretam et idoneam Personem existentem Burgensem dicti Burgi et Inhabitantem infra limites ejusdem, qualem eis necessarium et convenientem videbitur, fore et esse Servientem vocatum Le Town's Serjeant in Burgo prædicto et omnes alios Officiarios et Ministros, prout antehac in Burgo prædicto per spatium septem annorum jam ultimo elapsorum assuetum et consuetum fuit. Et Superius volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus per præsentes præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis quod, si contingat Majorem Burgi prædicti aliquo tempore infra unum Annum postquam ad Officium Majoris Burgi prædicti (ut præfertur) perfectus et juratus fuerit, abire vel ab officio suo amovere durante tempore quo sit Major ejusdem Burgi Quemque dictum Majorem Burgi illius pro tempore existentem per mala gestura sua in Officio illo seu pro aliqua racionabili Causa per Commune Concilium Burgi illius vel majorem Partem eorum pro tempore existentium amobilem esse volumus quod tunc et toties bene liceat et licebit prædicto Communi Concilio Burgi illius sive majori parti eorum convenire in dicta Aula aut alio loco conveniente infra Burgum prædictum ad certum diem præfixum sive præfigendum per Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existens vel per majorem partem eorum infra octo dies proximos sequentes mortem aut amoveacionem hujusmodi Majoris et ibidem eligere nominare et assignare valeant et possunt unum de supradictis Aldermanis existentibus in Majorem ejusdem Burgi prædicti Et quod ille, sic electus et perfectus, Officium illud habeat et exerceat durante residuo ejusdem Anni, Sacramentis Corporalibus in forma inferiùs specificata prius præstandis, et toties quoties casus sic acciderit. Et Volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis Quod quælibet persona Burgi prædicti ad Officium Majoris Burgi prædicti imposterum electa separalia Sacramenta et Juramenta pro debito Execucione Officiorum Majoris Justiciarii Burgi prædicti et pro Comitatu Lancastriæ capiet et præstabit Corporalia Sacramenta super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram ultimo Prædecessore suo in eodem Officio, si isdem Prædecessor superstes sit et tunc præsens fuerit, et si idem Prædecessor suus ad tunc mortuus vel absens fuerit tunc coram Commune Concilio Burgi prædicti pro tempore existente, vel majori parte eorum tunc ibidem præsentium pro fideli Execucione Officii vel Officiorum Majoris et Justiciarii pacis nostræ Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum illum et Comitatum Lancastriæ prædictum conservandæ Cuique dicto Prædecessori in Officio Majoris Burgi illius vel Communi Concilio-ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existentibus et majori parti eorum ad hujusmodi Sacramenta et Juramenta cuilibet personæ in Officio Majoris Burgi illius imposterum in forma prædicta electæ sive eligendæ de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et authoritatem damus et concedimus per Ac Ulterius volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Wigan et Successoribus suis quòd quotiescunque et quandocunque contigerit Balivum vocatum Le Town Bailiffe et Servientem dicti Burgi vocatum Le Town Serjeant vel eorum alterum obire infra unum Annum postquam ad officia illa Balivi et Servientis, ut præfertur, perfecti et jurati fuerint vel fuerit vel intra tempus illud ab Officiis suis seu eorum altero respective amoveri, quod tunc et toties bene liceat et licebit Majori et Communi Concilio ejusdem Burgi, sive majori parti eorundem, pro tempore existentibus alium vel alios Inhabitantium Burgi prædicti in loco vel locis ipsius vel ipsorum sic mortui vel amoti mortuorum vel amotorum existentium infra octo dies respective tunc proximos sequentes eligere et perficere modo et forma suprascriptis Et quod ipse vel ipsi sic electi et perfecti Officium sive Officia illa ad quod vel quæ sic electi nominati et perfecti respective fuerint vel fuerit habeant et exerceant habeat et exerceat durante residuo ejusdem Anni Et hoc toties quoties casus sic acciderit. Et Volumus quòd omnes et quælibet Persona et Personæ in hujusmodi Officii sive Officiorum ultime prædictorum imposterum electæ nominatæ aut perfectæ, antequam in Officio sive Officiis illis aliqualiter se intromittant seu intromittat Sacramentum suum Corporale super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio coram Majore Burgi prædicti pro tempore existente pro debita Executione Officii sive Officiorum illorum respective præstabunt et eorum quælibet præstabit Cuique dicto Majori Burgi prædicti pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta in forma prædicta de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum plenam potestatem et authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentes. Et Ulterius volumus ac pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris per præsentes concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi et Successoribus suis quod Major ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existens, de tempore in tempus quandocunque ei placuerit nominabit eliget et constituet unam honestam et idoneam Personam existentem Burgensem et Inhabitantem infra Burgum prædictum fore et supportare Officium Balivi vocatum Le Major's Bayliffe quamdiu idem Major in Officio suo fuerit et permanebit ad ea omnia faciendum quæ ad hujusmodi Officium Balivi pertinent. Necnon quod prædictus Major pro tempore existens de tempore in tempus, quandocunque ei placuerit, nominabit eliget et constituet unam aliam idoneam Personam Burgensem Inhabitantem infra Burgum prædictum fore et supportare Officium Subbalivi vocatum Le Serjeant ac Mace

vel Le Major's Serjeant quamdiu idem Major in Officio suo fuerit, vel quamdiu ei placuerit, pro Proclamacionibus Arrestacionibus Processibus Executionibus et aliquibus rebus Officio suo pertinentibus infra dictum Burgum ac Limutes Bundas et Præcinctus ejusdem faciendis peragendis et exequendis in Consilibus modo et forma prout Servientes ad Claviam in eodem Burgo antehac assueti et consucti fuerint. Quodque idem Serviens ad Claviam sic nominatus constitutus et electus possit et valeat portare Claviam Armis nostris sculptam infra limites et bundas dicti Burgi durante tempore que ipse in officio illo fuerit. Et quod quælibet Persona tam ad Officium Balivi vocatum Le Major's Bayliffe quam ad Officium Servientis ad Claviam infra Burgum prædictum nominata et electa nominanda et eligenda Sacramentum capiet et præstabit Corporale coram Majore ejusdem Burgi pro tempore existente ad Officium suum bene et fideliter exequendum et exercendum Cuique dicto Majori Burgi illius pro tempore existenti ad hujusmodi Sacramenta in forma prædicta de tempore in tempus dandum et administrandum potestatem et Authoritatem damus et concedimus per præsentes. Et Ulterius volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredıbus et Successoribus nostris præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus dicti Burgi et Successoribus suis ordinamus et concedimus Quod quandocunque contigerit aliquem vel aliques de prædictis Aldermanis Capitalibus Burgensibus et Assistantibus seu eorum alterum pro tempore existentibus obire vel a loco suo Aldermanorum Capitalium Burgensium vel Assistantium seu eorum alterius amoveri, quos et quem vel aliquem eorum pro rationabili Causa amobilem esse et amovere volumus per Majorem et Commune Concilium Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes vel majorem partem corum quod tune et toties bene liceat et licebit Majori et Communi Concillio Burgi illius pro tempore existentibus vel majori Parti eorum aliquos vel plures alios de Burgensibus Burgi prædicti in locum vel loca hujusmodi Aldermani vel Aldermanorum Capitalis Burgensis seu Capitalium Burgensium Assistantia vel Assistantium sic obire vel amoveri contingentium eligere nominare et perficere. Quodque ille vel illi electus et perfectus electi et perfecti, præstitis prius coram Majore Burgi prædicti sacramentis corporalibus ad Officium illud debite et bene exequendum, erit et erunt de numero prædictorum Aldermanorum vel Capitalium Burgensium vel Assistantium prædictorum Burgi prædicti Et hoc toties quoties Casus sic acciderit Et ulterius volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris firmiter injungendo præcipimus Quod Major Balivi Aldermani et Capitales Burgenses Recordator Communis Clericus et Coronator Burgi prædicti et omnes alii Officiarii et Ministri Burgi illius et eorum Deputati Necnon quilibet Justiciarii ad pacem nostram Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum infra Burgum illum et Comitatum Lancastriæ prædictum conservandum et superius mencionati aut per has literas Patentes modo nominati et appunctuati sive constituti seu virtute aut secundum tenorem earundem literarum nostrarum patentium inposterum nominandi eligendi seu constituendi, antequam ipsi ad Execucionem sive Exercitium Officii seu Officiorum loci vel locorum cui vel quibus sic, ut præfertur, respective nominati appunctuati sive constituti modo existunt aut imposterum in forma prædicta nominati electi sive constituti fuerient, admittantur aut aliqualiter in ea parte se intromittant tam Sacramentum Corporale Anglicè comuniter vocatum. The Oath of Obedience quam Sacramentum Corporale Anglice communiter vocatum, The Oath of Supremacy super Sacro sancto Dei Evangelio præstabunt et eorum quilibet præstabit coram tali persona sive talibus personis quales et que ad hujusmodi Sacramenta dandum et præstandum per Legem et Statuta hujus regni nostri Angliæ ad præsens appunctuantur et designantur aut imposterum appunctuatæ vel designatæ fuerint. Proviso semper ac plenam potestatem et authoritatem nobis Hæredibus Successoribus nostris per præsentes reservamus de tempore in tempus et ad omnia tempora imposterum ad Majorem Recordatorem Communem Clericum aut aliquem vel aliquos de Aldermanis Balivis vel de Commune Concillio vel alios Officiarios Burgi prædicti per presentes nominatos et constitutos vel imposterum eligendos et nominandos ad libitum et bene placitum nostrum Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum per aliquam ordinem in privato Concillio factam et sub Sigillo privati Concilii prædicti eisdem respective significatam ad amovendum et amotum et amotos esse declarandum et quoties nos Hæredes vel Successores nostri per aliquam

talem ordinem in privato concilio factam declarabimus vel declarabunt hujusmodi Majorem Recorditorem Communem Clericum aut aliquem vel aliquos de Aldermanis vel de Communi Concilio vel Balivis Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus sic amotum vel amotos esse, ut præfertur, quod tunc et toties Major Recordator Communis Clericus aut atiquis vel aliqui de Aldermanis Balivis vel de Communi Concilio Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentes, sic amotum vel amotos esse declarati sive declarandi, a separaiibus et respectivis Officiis ipso facto et sine aliquo ulteriori processu realiter et ad omnes intenciones et proposita quæcunque amotus sit et erit amoti sint et erunt Et hoc toties quoties Casus sit acciderit aliquo in Contrarium inde non obstante. Et ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris damus et concedimus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis quod ipsi et Successores sui de cætero imperpetuum habeant teneant et custodiant ac habere tenere et costodire valeant et possint annuatim in Villa sive Burgo de Wigan prædicto pro et in loco Feriæ ibidem antehac tentæ in et super decimum sextum diem Julii et pro duobus diebus proximis sequentibus unam Feriam incipiendam in et super decimum sextum diem Julii, si non sit Dies Dominicus; et si ita sit, tunc in die proximo sequente ac per totum hujusmodi diem incepcionis inde prædictæ et per duos dies proximos sequentes annuatim custodiendam et duraturam una cum Curia Pedis pulverizati tempore ejusdem Feriæ ac simul cum Stallagio Piccagio Finibus amerciamentis et omnibus aliis profituis commoditatibus et emollumentis quibuscunque Feriæ et Curiæ Pedis pulverizati tempore ejusdem Feriæ ac simul cum Stallagio Piccagio Finibus amerciamentis et omnibus aliis profituis commoditatibus et emollumentis quibuscunque ad hujusmodi Feriam et Curiam Pedis pulverizati spectantibus pertinentibus accidentibus emergentibus sive contingentibus cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi Feriam spectantibus sive pertinentibus ad proprium opus et usum commodum et commoditatem dictorum Majoris Ballivorum et Burgensium Burgi prædicti et Successorum suorum pro tempore existentium imperpetuum capiendis accapiendis et custodiendis et hoc absque compositione vel aliquo alio nobis Hæredibus vel uccessoribus nostris proinde reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Ac absque molestacione perturbaciones gravamine seu contradiccione nostri Hæredum vel Successorum aut aliquorum Vicecomitum Escaetorum Ballivorum Officiariorum sive Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum quoruncunque Ac absque aliquo alio Warranto Brevi aut Præcepto a nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris imposterum in hac parte procurando vel obtinendo Dum tamen Feria illa non sit ad nocumentum vicinariarum Feriarum. Ac ulterius de uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa Scientia et mero motu nostris concessimus ac per præsentes nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus et licentiam specialem liberam et licitam facultatem potestatem et authoritatem damus præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan prædicti et Successoribus suis habendi recipiendi et perquirendi sibi et Successoribus suis imperpetuum Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones et alia Hæreditamenta quæcunque infra Regnum nostrum Angliæ seu alibi infra Dominia nostra tam de nobis Hæredibus vel Successoribus nostris quam de aliqua alia Persona sive aliquibus aliis Personis quibuscunque, Dummodo eadem Maneria Messuagia Terræ Tenementa Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Bosci Subbosci Rectoriæ Decimæ redditus revenciones servicia et alia Hæreditamenta sic, ut præfertur, per ipsos habenda recipienda et perquirenda non excedant in toto clarum annualem Valorem ducentarum Librarum per Annum ultra omnia onera et reprisas Statutis de terras et tenementa ad manum mortuam non ponendo aut aliquo alio Statuto actu ordinacione vel provisione antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante. Damus etiam ac per presentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus omnibus et singulis Subditis nostris quibuscunque et cuicunque Subdito nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum licentiam specialem ac liberam et licitam postatem facultatem et authoritatem Quod ipsi Maneria Messuagia Terras Tenementa Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Rectorias Decimas redditus revenciones Servicia et alia Hæreditamenta quæcunquæ præfatis Majori Balivis Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus

suis dare concedere vendere legare vel alienare licitè et impunè possint et valeant Ita quod omnia prædicta Maneria Messuagia Prata Pascuæ Pasturæ Bosci Subbosci Rectoriæ Decimæ redditus reverciones servicia terræ tenementa et alia hæreditamenta sic eisdem Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et Successoribus suis, ut præfertur, danda concedenda alienanda vel leganda in toto non excedent clarum annualem valorem Ducentarum Librarum ultra omnia onera et reprisas per Annum Statutis de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio Statuto actu ordinacione vel provisione antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in contrarium inde in aliquo non obstante—Et ex uberiori gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris volumus ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus damus restituimus confirmamus ratificamus et approbamus præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti et successoribus suis necnon Burgensibus ac liberis hominibus Burgi prædicti pro tempore existentibus omnia et omnimoda Maneria Messuagia Molendinas Terras Prata Pascuas Pasturas Boscos Subboscos Redditus Rivos Aquas Piscarias et tot tanta talia eadem hujusmodi et Consilia Officia Officiaria et alia Officia et Officiaria Consuetudines Libertates Franchesias Immunitates Exempciones solvendo tolneta apud Cestriam et alias exempciones privillegia potestates quietancias jura jurisdictiones Vastata Vasta Funda vias cadas mercatus ferias nundinas tolneta theolonia deodanda bona et cattalla Felonum fugitivorum et Utlegatorum vectigalia grain in specie diebus mercatis commoditates Profituas emolumenta tenementa et hæreditamenta quæcunque quoties quanta qualia et quæ nuperi Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti vel prædecessores sui per quæcunque nomina vel per quodcunque nomen vel per quamcunque Incorporacionem vel prætextum cujuscunque nominis aut incorporacionis seu Burgenses vel liberi homines Burgi prædicti antehac habuerunt tenuerunt usi vel gavisi fuerunt aut habere tenere uti vel gaudere debuerunt ratione vel prætextu aliquarum Chartarum aut Literarum Patentium per aliquem progenitorum vel antecessorum nostrorum nuperorum Regum vel Reginarum Angliæ quoquo modo antehac factarum concessarum sive confirmatarum aut quocunque alio Legali modo jure titulo consuetudine usu seu præscripcione antehac limitata concessa usitata habita seu consueta Tamen sub Limitacionibus ct provisionibus prædictia habendum tenendum et gaudendum omnia et singula præmissa prædicta superius per Præsentes data concessa sive confirmata præfatis Majori Ballivis et Burgensibus Burgi nostri de Wigan et Successoribus suis ac Burgensibus et liberis hominibus Burgi prædicti respective, ut præfertur imperpetuum sub limitationibus et provisionibus prædictis ac reddendum et solvendum proinde nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris annuatim tot tanta talia cadem et hujusmodi redditus servicia denariorum summas et demanda quecunque quot quanta qualia et que pro eisdem seu eorum aliqua vel aliquibus antehac reddi seu solvi consueverunt aut de jure debuerunt. Quare volumus ac per præsentes firmiter ingungendo præcipimus pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris quod prædicti Major Ballivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti et Successores sui teneant utantur gaudeant ac habere tenere uti exercere et gaudere valeant et possunt imperpetuum omnibus libertatibus authoritatibus jurisdiccionibus consuetudinibus concessionibus franchesiis quietanciis terris tenementis et hæreditamentis prædictis ac omnibus Bonis et Catallis suis quibuscumque secundum tenorem formam et effectum harum literarum nostrarum patentium sine occasione molestacione vel impedimento nostro Hæredum vel Successorum nostrorum Justiciariorum Vicecomitum Escaetorum Balivorum Ministrorum nostrorum Hæredum aut Successorum nostrorum quacunque. Nolentes quod iidem Major Balivi et Burgenses aut Successores sui vel eorum aliquis vel aliqui racione præmissorum sive eorum alicujus per nos Hæredos vel Successores nostros Justiciarios Vicecomites Escheatores Balivos sive alios Ministros Hæredum vel Successorum 'nostrorum quoruncunque turbentur molestentur vexentur seu graventur vel in aliquo perturbentur. Volentes etiam ac per præsentes pro nobis Hæredibus et Successoribus nostris mandantes et præcipientes tam Thesaurario Cancellario Baronibus Scaccarii nostri Westmonasteriensis ac aliis Justiciariis nostris Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum quam Atturnato et Sollicitatori nostro Generali pro tempore existentibus et eorum cuilibet et omnibus aliis Ministris et Officiariis nostris

Hæredum et Successorum nostrorum quorumcunque pro tempore existentibus Quod nec ipsi nec eorum aliqui vel aliquis aliquod Breve sive summonitionem de quo Warranto sive aliquod Breve Brevia vel Processus nostri quecunque versus præfatum Majorem Balivos et Burgenses Burgi prædicti aut eorum aliquem vel aliques pro aliquibus causis rebus materiis offenciis clameis et usurpationibus aut eorum aliquo per ipsos aut eorum aliquos attemptatis clameatis usitatis habitis factis sive usurpatis ante confeccionem harum literarum nostrarum Patentium impetiantur prosequentur aut continuabunt vel impetiri prosequi aut continuari faciant aut causant sen eorum aliquis facit aut causat. Volentes etiam quod iidem Major Balivi et Burgenses Burgi prædicti vel eorum aliqui per aliquem vel aliquos Justiciarios Vicecomites Officiarios vel Ministros prædictos in aut pro debito seu clameo vel abusu aliquorum aliorum libertatum privillegiorum franchesiarum aut jurisdictionum infra Burgum prædictum Libertates Limites et Præcinctus ejusdem ante diem confeccionis harum literarum nostrarum patentium minime molestentur aut impediantur aut ad ea seu eorum aliquid vel aliquæ respondere compellantur. Eo Quod expressa mentio de vero valore annuo vel de certitudine præmissorum sive eorum alicujus aut de aliis donis sive concessibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum sive Prædecessorum nostrorum præfatis Majori Balivis et Burgensibus Burgi prædicti ante hæc tempora factis in præsentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo statuto actu ordinaceone Provisione Proclamacione sive Restriccione in contrarium inde antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante. In cujus rei testimonium has Literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes, Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium vicessimo quinto die Februarii anno Regni nostri primo.

(Per Breve de Communi Sigillo.)

Pigott."

The following is a translation of the above Charter, 1st James II.:—

"James the Second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; to all, to whom our present letters shall come, greeting:-Whereas our borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, is an ancient borough and the mayor and burgesses of the same borough (as well by reason of sundry charters and letters patent of diverse of our progenitors and ancestors, late Kings and Queens of England, and others, as by reason of diverse prescriptions and customs, from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, in the same borough used held and approved) have, by diverse separate names, held used and enjoyed and do now hold use and enjoy diverse liberties, franchises, immunities, customs, pre-eminences, and other hereditaments: And whereas our beloved subjects the late mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough have most humbly besought us, and we, for the better government and amelioration of the same borough, are in this behalf willing, graciously to exhibit and extend, as far as in us lies, our favour and munificence to the same mayor, bailiffs, and Burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and that we would vouchsafe by our letters patent to make, erect, constitute, ratify, confirm or create anew the said mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough (by whatsoever name or whatsoever names they have heretofore been incorporated, or whether they have heretofore been incorporated or not) into one body corporate and politic, by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, with such additions and alterations of liberties, privileges, immunities, and franchises of the same borough, and in such manner and form as, for the better government and amelioration of the borough aforesaid, to us shall seem meet: We therefore, in consideration of the premises, and being willing that for the future one certain and undoubted rule of and for the keeping of our peace in our same borough and the ruling and government of our people there, be continually kept up; and that for ever in times to come that borough may be and remain a borough of peace and quiet, to the fear and terror of the bad and for the protection and preservation of the good; and also that our peace and judicial acts may, without further delay, be there kept and done; we, of our special grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, have willed, ordained, appointed,

granted, and declared, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do will, ordain, appoint, and grant, and declare, that our borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, be and remain for ever hereafter a borough of itself; and that by force of these presents the inhabitants of the borough of Wigan aforesaid, for the time to come for ever be and remain, in reality, fact, and name, one body corporate and politic by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the berough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster; and by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in our county of Lancaster, them and their successors, one body corporate and politic in deed, fact, and name, we, in reality and to the full, for us our heirs and successors, do erect, make, ordain, confirm, constitute, and declare by these presents, and that by the same name they retain perpetual succession: And we are willing and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do grant to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of that borough and their successors aforesaid, that they and their successors, by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, may have power and be able to plead and to be impleaded, to sue and to be sued, and to defend and to be defended, to answer and to be answered in all courts and places of us, our heirs and successors, and in other courts and places whatsoever (as well within this our kingdom as elsewhere within our other dominions whatsoever being), as well in all and singular actions, suite, complaints, causes and demands (real, personal, and mixed), as in all and singular other causes, businesses, and matters whatsoever: And further that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors may and shall have a Common Seal for doing and managing their deeds, causes, and businesses; and that it well may and shall be lawful for them and their successors, from time to time at their own pleasure, to break, change, and make that Seal anew, as to them shall seem more expedient to be and to be done: And further that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses and their successors, by the name of mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster, be and shall be proper persons and capable in the law to purchase, receive, have, and take to them and their successors (in fee and perpetuity, or for a term of life or lives or years, or otherwise), lordships, manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, hereditaments, liberties, franchises, rights, jurisdictions, and privileges whatsoever, and also goods and chattles and all other things of what kind, nature, species or quality soever they may be, and also to give, grant, demise, and assign the same lordships, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods and chattles, and to do and execute all other deeds and things by the name aforesaid: And also we are willing and for us our heirs and successors, do by these presents grant to mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors that for the time to come and for ever, in the borough aforesaid, there may and shall be one of the more substantial and discreet men of that borough, in form hereafter in those presents mentioned from time to time to be chosen, who shall be and shall be mayor of that borough; and in like manner there may and shall be one other of the more substantial and discreet men of that borough (learned in the laws of England), who shall be and shall be called recorder of the borough aforesaid; and that in like manner there may and shall be within the borough aforesaid, twelve others of the more substantial and discreet men of the same borough, in form also hereinafter mentioned from time to time to be chosen, who shall be and shall be named aldermen of that borough; and that in like manner there may and shall be within the borough aforesaid, eighteen men of the more discreet and substantial men of the said borough, who in causes and matters touching the same borough shall be and shall be called assistants and aidants to the said mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the same borough for the time being, and who shall be and shall be called Capital Burgesses of the same borough, and shall be the Common Council of the said borough; and two men of integrity of the borough aforesaid, who shall be and shall be called bailiffs of the borough aforesaid: And we are willing and for us our heirs and successors, do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that (for the good regimen and governance of the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and other capital burgesses,

bailiffs, and all other burgesses and inhabitants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, and by declarations in what manner and order the aforesaid mayor, recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, bailiffs, and all and singular other ministers, officers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants and residents of that borough for the time being, in their own offices, functions, trades and businesses within the borough aforesaid, and the liberties thereof shall conduct, carry, and use themselves, and otherwise for the further good and public utility, and for the good government of that borough and victualling of the same, and also for the better preservation, governance, disposal, leasing, and demising of lands, tenements, possessions, reversions and hereditaments of that borough, whether given, granted, or assigned or hereafter to be granted, given, or assigned unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the same borough and their successors, and also for the determination of all matters and causes of the borough aforesaid, whatsoever, or touching the statutes, rights, and interests of the same borough or the same in any wise concerning), they and their successors, by their Common Council or the major part of the same for the time being, may and shall have full authority, power, and faculty of erecting, constituting, ordaining, making, and establishing from time to time such and such like laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions, as and which, to them (or the major part of them) for the time being, shall appear to be good, wholesome, useful, honest, and necessary, according to their sound discretions: And that (as often as, by their Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being or the major part of them, they shall have erected, made, ordained, or established in form aforesaid, such laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions and such like, and such pains, punishments, and penalties by fines and amerciaments upon and towards all offenders against such kind of laws, decrees, statutes, ordinances, and institutions, or any one or any of them, as and which unto the same mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council for the time being, or the major part of them, for the observation of the aforesaid laws, ordinances, and statutes, it shall appear more adviseably necessary and requisite to make, ordain, limit, and provide), the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, may be able and have power to levy and retain both the same fines and amerciaments without the hindrance of us, our heirs, and successors: All and singular which laws, ordinances, decrees, statutes, and institutions so to be made, as aforesaid, we will to be observed under the penalties therein contained, in such manner, nevertheless, that the laws, institutions, statutes, pains, and penalties of this kind be repugnant nor contrary, but agreeable to the laws and statutes of our kingdom of England; and, for the better execution of the same our purposes and grants in this behalf, we have assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved Roger Bradshaigh, Knight and Baronet (a burgess of the borough aforesaid), to be and purposely to be the first and present mayor of the borough aforesaid, being willing that, from the date of these presents until the Sabbath Day next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next about to happen, the said Roger Bradshaigh in the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid shall be and continue, and from the said day (so be and continue), until another burgess of the borough aforesaid, to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same Roger Bradshaigh shall so long live: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved Berty Entwistle, Esquire (a burgess of the borough aforesaid), to be and purposely to be the first and present recorder of the borough aforesaid: And we have assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make the said Roger Bradshaigh, and our beloved William Daniell, Esquire, Robert Baron, William Glover, Ralph Markland, Robert Letherbarrow, Thomas Bancks, Thomas Turner, Laurance Anderton (Gentlemen), Robert Ford, Christopher Sumpner, James Scott, and William Deane, to be and purposely to be the first and present aldermen of that borough: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our

heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved John Keeling and William Langton, to be and purposely to be the first and present bailiffs of the borough aforesaid; and that, from the date of these presents until the aforesaid Sabbath Day next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel aforesaid, they in the office of Bailiffs of the same borough shall be and continue, and thenceforward (so be and continue), until other burgesses of the borough aforesaid to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same John Keeling and William Langton so long shall live: We have also assigned, nominated, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved subject Laurence Anderton, the younger, to be the first and present clerk of the borough aforesaid, clerk of the Statutes-Merchants, coroner, clerk of the Markets, and ulnager of that borough, and to do and execute all and singular those things which to the several offices aforesaid pertain or ought to pertain; And we have assigned, ordained, constituted, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do assign, nominate, appoint, and make our beloved subjects John Markland and Edward Fairclough, to be and purposely to be the first and present sergeants of the borough aforesaid, from the date of these presents until the aforesaid Sabbath Day next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel aforesaid, and thence forward until other Burgesses of the borough aforesaid to and into that office shall have been made and sworn according to the appointments and provisions in these presents hereafter expressed and specified, if the same John Markland and Edward Fairclough so long shall live: And we are willing and for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that by force of these presents, it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the borough aforesaid for the time being, and the major part of them (of whom it is our pleasure that the mayor for the time being shall be one), to nominate and elect eighteen of the more substantial and discreet men (inhabitants of that borough), to be and purposely to be the aforesaid assistants of the borough aforesaid, which assistants for the time being, together with the aforesaid mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the same borough for the time being, may and shall be and are made and constituted thirty-two Capital Burgesses and Common Council of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, by force of these presents: We are also willing that, by their oaths in this behalf due and according to the tenor of these presents, the aforesaid recorder, aldermen, and capital burgesses above nominated and elected, to be nominated and elected respectively, may be, shall be and shall continue recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, assistants, and common council of that borough for and during their natural lives and the natural life of every of them respectively, unless in the mean time by reason of their own future malpractices in that office, or for any other reasonable cause they be amoved, or any one of them be amoved from the same: And further we are willing and by these presents, do appoint that (before they be respectively admitted or any one of them be admitted to the execution of their own offices), the recorder, aldermen, bailiffs, and capital bugesses and assistants, the clerk and sergeant at staves, and all (both officers and ministers) of the borough aforesaid lately nominated, or hereafter, by force of these presents, to be nominated and elected, shall, and every of them shall, in the presence of the mayor of the same borough for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take their own several corporal oaths well and faithfully to execute that office respectively in all things their own offices respectively touching or concerning, and to which the said mayor (for the time being), to give and administer such oaths as well to the recorder, aldermen, capital burgesses, bailiffs, clerk, and sergeants by these presents nominated, as unto all and every one (both person and persons of the same borough, by force of these presents hereafter to be nominated and elected, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: Moreover we have granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, de grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that (for the good of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, and the

quiet rule and sound government of the people, of us, our heirs, and successors, in all and singular their own matters within the borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof according to the force, form, and effect of the statutes and ordinances in that behalf published, to be kept, and to be caused to be kept; and to cause to be punished all those, whom against the force, form, and effect of the statutes and ordinances they shall there find acting or offending, according to those statutes and ordinances and the laws of our land; and according to the laws and customs of our kingdom of England, to hear and determine all and singular those things as fully, freely, and entirely, and in as ample manner and form as the justices of the peace in our said county of Lancaster, or elsewhere within our kingdom of England heretofore have used and exercised, or lawfully may use or exercise, in time to come out of the borough aforesaid the liberties and precincts of the same), the mayor of the same borough for the time being, and the last predecessor of the mayor by these presents nominated, and every the last predecessor of the mayor of the same borough for the time to come during the space of one year from and after his going out and departure of and from the office of mayor of the same borough respectively, and also the recorder of the same borough for the time being, may and shall be, and every of them may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, within the borough aforesaid the liberties and precincts thereof, and may and shall have, and every of them may and shall have full power and authority there to preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, and there to do and execute all other things, which unto the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, or successors, in any our county of England belong to be done and executed: And further it is our pleasure, and we do by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, give and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their successors, that the present mayor of that borough by these presents nominated, and every other mayor of the same borough for the time being hereafter, to be respectively nominated and elected, may and shall be justices of us, our heirs, and successors, to keep and preserve the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, in our county of Lancaster, and to do and execute and confirm all other things which by the justices of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, within the same county, by the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of England, now published or hereafter to be published, may or ought to be done, executed, or performed: And we do make, ordain, and constitute the present mayor of the borough aforesaid (by these presents named and constituted), and all and every mayor and mayors of that borough for the time being in time to come to be nominated and elected, a justice and justices of us, our heirs, and successors, touching the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, as is aforesaid, within the county of Lancaster aforesaid, to do and execute what may and ought to be done and executed, by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and we do, by these presents, ordain and appoint that the present mayor of the borough aforesaid above named (before he in anywise act or introduce himself in the aforesaid several offices of mayor, justice of our peace of that borough and justice of peace for the county of Lancaster aforesaid, or any of them) shall, in the presence of Richard Standish, Baronet, Peter Brook, Knight, Richard Atherton, Knight, or any two of them, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take his several corporal oaths, well and faithfully in all things, to execute those several offices and trusts according to the duty of those offices respectively; and to which said Richard Standish, Peter Brook, and Richard Atherton, or any two of them, to give and administer unto the aforesaid present mayor the several caths aforesaid, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: and further it is our pleasure and, by these presents, we do ordain and appoint that the last predecessor of the present mayor now and for the time being, and the recorder aforesaid, before they in anywise act or respectively introduce themselves into the office of a justice of our peace of our borough aforesaid, the liberties and precincts thereof, shall, in the presence of the mayor of the said borough of Wigan for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take, and each of them shall take, their corporal oaths, well and faithfully in all things, to execute that office according to the duty of that office, and

to which said mayor of the said borough of Wigan for the time being, to give and administer unto the aforesaid last predecessor of the present mayor and unto the recorder aforesaid for the time respectively being, the oaths aforesaid we give and grant full power and authority by these presents: And also of our more abundant grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, we, for us, our heirs, and successors, by these presents, do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough of Wigan and their successors That, from time to time in every year, for the time to come, for ever, on the Sabbath Day next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, the mayor and Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them, within the Common Hall of the same borough, or some other place within the borough aforesaid, annually do meet (and may and can meet), and there shall nominate and elect one person of the aldermen of the said borough for the time being to be and remain mayor of the said borough, and one other proper person, being a burgess of the same Borough (who to them shall seem more expedient), to be and remain bailiff of the said borough, called the town's bailiff, and such another discreet and proper person, being a burgess of the said borough and an inhabitant within the limits of the same (as to them shall seem necessary and meet) to be and remain serjeant, called the town's serjeant, in the borough aforesaid, and all other officers and ministers, as heretofore, within the borough aforesaid, for the space of seven years now last past has been used and accustomed. And, moreover, it is our pleasure, and for us, our heirs, and successors, we do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that, if it happen that the mayor of the borough aforesaid, at any time within one year after he shall have been made and sworn (as aforesaid) into the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid, go or amove from his office during the time in which he is mayor of the same borough (every which said mayor of that borough for the time being, on account of his future malpractices in that office, or for any reasonable cause, by the Common Council of that borough, or the major part of them for the time being, it is our pleasure shall be amovable), that, then and so often, at a certain day by the Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or by a major part of them, prefixed or to be prefixed, within eight days next following the death or amoval of such mayor, it well may and shall be lawful for the aforesaid Common Council of that borough, or a major part of them, in the said Hall, or some other convenient place within the borough aforesaid, to assemble, and there may and can elect, nominate, and assign one of the abovesaid aldermen (then being) for mayor of the same borough aforesaid, and that he, so elected and made, may have and exercise that office during the remainder of the same year, having first taken the corporal oaths in form hereafter specified, and so often as the case shall so happen. And it is our pleasure and, by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that every person of the borough aforesaid to the office of mayor of the borough aforesaid, hereafter chosen, shall take the several sacraments and oaths for the due execution of the offices of mayor, justice of the borough aforesaid and for the county of Lancaster, and also perform the corporal oaths upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God in the presence of his predecessor in the same office, if the same predecessor be alive and then present; and if the same, his predecessor, shall be at that time dead or absent, then in the presence of the Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them at that time there present, for the faithful execution of the office or offices of mayor and justice of the peace of us, our heirs, and successors, to be kept within that borough and the county of Lancaster aforesaid, and to which said predecessor in the office of mayor of that borough, or the Common Council of the same borough for the time being, and the major part of them, to give and administer such kind of sacraments and oaths unto every person into the office of mayor of that borough for ever in the form aforesaid elected and to be elected, from time to time, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the

said borough of Wigan, and their successors, that, as often as, and whensoever it shall happen, that the bailiff, called the town bailiff, and the serjeant of the said borough, called the town serjeant, or either of them, die or dies within one year after they or he shall have been made and sworn into those offices of bailiff and serjeant, as aforesaid, or from their or either of their offices respectively within that time be amoved, that then and so often it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor and Common Council of the same borough, or the major part of the same, for the time being, one other or others of the inhabitants of the borough aforesaid, in the place or places of him or them so being dead or amoved, to elect and make within eight days respectively then next following in manner and form above-written, and that he or they so chosen and made may have and exercise that office or those offices to which he or they respectively shall have been elected, nominated, and made, during the residue of the same year, and this so often as the case shall so happen: and it is our pleasure that all and every person and persons into this last aforesaid kind of office or offices hereafter elected, nominated, or made, before he or they in that office or offices in anywise introduce himself or themselves, shall, in the presence of the mayor of the borough aforesaid for the time being, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, take, and every of them shall take, his own corporal oath for the due execution of that office or offices respectively, and to which the said mayor of the borough aforesaid for the time being, from time to time, to give and administer such kind of oaths in form aforesaid, we give and grant full power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and for us, our heirs, and successors, we do by these presents grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough, and their successors, that the mayor of the same borough for the time being, from time to time, whensoever to him it shall seem good, shall nominate, elect, and appoint one honest and proper person, being a burgess and inhabitant within the borough aforesaid, to be and support the office of bailiff, called the mayor's bailiff, as long as the same mayor in his office shall be and remain, to do all those things which unto such office of bailiff appertain; and also that the aforesaid mayor for the time being, from time to time, whensoever to him it shall seem good, shall nominate, elect, and appoint one other proper person, a burgess, inhabiting within the borough aforesaid, to be and support the office of subbailiff, called the serjeant at mace, or the mayor's serjeant, so long as the same mayor in his office shall be, or so long as to him shall seem good, for proclamations, arrestments, processes, execution, and any things unto his office appertaining within the said borough, and the limits, bounds, and precincts of the same in councils, to be done, transacted, and executed in manner and form as the serjeants at mace, in the same borough, have heretofore been used and accustomed. And that the same serjeant at mace so nominated, appointed, and elected, may and can, within the limits and bounds of the said borough during the time in which he shall be in that office, carry a mace with our arms engraven; and that every person, as well to the office of bailiff, called the mayor's bailiff, as to the office of serjeant at mace, within the borough aforesaid, nominated and elected (or) to be nominated and elected, in the presence of the mayor of the said borough for the time being, shall take and perform his corporal oath well and faithfully to execute and exercise his office, and to which said mayor of that borough for the time being in form aforesaid, from time to time, to give and administer such caths, we give and grant power and authority by these presents. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, we do appoint and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the said borough, and their successors, that, whensoever it shall happen that any one or any of the aforesaid aldermen, capital burgesses, and assistants, or any of them, for the time being, die or from his place of aldermen, capital burgesses, or assistants, or any other of them, be amoved (whom, and each or any of them, for reasonable cause it is our pleasure to be amovable and to amove by the mayor and Common Council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them), then and so often it well may and shall be lawful for the mayor and Common Council of that borough for the time being, or the major part of them, to elect, nominate, and make some or more others of the burgesses of the borough aforesaid into the place or places of such alderman or aldermen,

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capital burgess or capital burgesses, assistant or assistants, so happening to die or to be amoved, and that he or they, when elected and made, having first before the mayor of the borough aforesaid taken the corporal oaths well and duly to execute that office, shall severally be of the number of the aforesaid aldermen, or capital burgesses, or assistants aforesaid, of the borough aforesaid, and this so often as the case shall so happen. And further it is our pleasure, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, by firmly enjoining, we command that (before they be admitted, or in anywise in that behalf, introduce themselves to the execution or exercise of the office or offices, place or places, to one or more of which they are thus, as aforesaid, now respectively nominated, appointed, or constituted, or hereafter in form aforesaid shall be nominated, elected, or constituted), the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, and capital burgesses, the recorder, common clerk, and coroner of the borough aforesaid, and all other officers and ministers of that borough, and their deputies, and also every of the justices also above mentioned, either by these letters patent now nominated and appointed, or constituted, or by virtue or according to the tenor of the same, our letters patent, hereafter to be nominated, elected, or constituted, to keep the peace of us, our heirs, and successors within that borough and the county of Lancaster aforesaid, shall, and every of them shall take as well, the coporal oath in English, commonly called The Oath of Obedience, as the corporal oath in English, commonly called The Oath of Supremacy, upon the Sacred Holy Gospel of God, before such person or persons as and who, to give and administer such oaths by the law and statutes of this our kingdom of England, are at present appointed and ordained, or hereafter shall be appointed or ordained. Provided always, and by these presents, we do reserve unto us, our heirs, and successors, full power and authority from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at the will and good pleasure of us, our heirs, or successors (by any order in Privy Council made and under the seal of the Privy Council aforesaid unto the same respectively signified) to amove and to declare singly and collectively, to be amoved the mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one or any of the aldermen, bailiffs, or any of the Common Council, or other officers of the borough aforesaid, by these presents nominated and appointed, or hereafter to be elected and nominated; and as often as by any such order in Privy Council made, we shall declare, or our heirs, or successors shall declare such mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one, or any of the aldermen, or of the common council, or bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for the time being, to be singly or collectively so amoved as aforesaid, that then and so often the mayor, recorder, common clerk, or any one, or any of the aldermen, bailiffs, or of the common council of the borough aforesaid for the time being, declared or to be declared to be singly and collectively so amoved, be and shall be singly and collectively amoved from their several and respective offices in very deed and without further process in reality and to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and this as often as the case shall so happen any thing to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And further of our more abundant grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion we do give and grant unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid, and their successors, that for and instead of a fair heretofore holden in and upon the sixteenth day of July and for two days next following, they and their successors for the time to come for ever may have, hold, and keep, and may be able to have, hold, and keep annually in the village or borough of Wigan aforesaid, one fair, to be begun in and upon the sixteenth day of July, if it be not the Lord's Day; and if it be so, then upon the day next following, and through the whole of such day of the beginning thereof aforesaid, and for two days next following, yearly to be kept and continue together with a Court of Piedpowder at the time of the same fair, together also with stallage, piccage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever to the fair and Court of Piedpowder at the time of the same fair, and also with stallage, piccage, fines, amerciaments, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever to such fair and Court of Piedpowder belonging, pertaining, happening, emerging, or contingent with all liberties and free customs to such fair relating, or appertaining to the proper occasion and use, profit, and advantage of the said mayor, bailiffs,

and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors for the time being, for ever to be taken received, and kept, and this without composition or any other thing to us, our heirs, or successors, therefore to be rendered, paid, or done, and without the molestation, hindrance, grievance, or contradiction of us, our heirs, or successors, or of any of the sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, officers, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whomsoever, and without any other warrant, writ, or precept from us, our heirs, or successors hereafter in that behalf to be procured or obtained, provided nevertheless that fair be not to the harm of neighbouring fairs; and further of our more abundant especial grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, we have granted and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant and give unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan aforesaid and their successors, special licence and free and lawful faculty, power, and authority to have, receive, and purchase to themselves and their successors for ever, manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, and other hereditaments whatsoever within our kingdom of England or elsewhere within our dominions, as well of us, our heirs, or successors, as of any other person or any other persons whomsoever, provided the same manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments so, as aforesaid, by them to be had, received, and purchased, do not exceed, in the whole, the clear annual value of two hundred pounds by the year, besides all burdens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands and tenements not to be put into mortmain or any other statute, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had, done, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding; we also give and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto all and singular our subjects whomsoever, and to every subject whomsoever of us, our heirs, or successors, special licence and free and lawful power, faculty, and authority, that they may and may have power to give, grant, sell, bequeath or alien unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwood, rectories, tythes, rents, revenues, services, and other hereditaments whatsoever; so that all the aforesaid manors, messuages, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, reversions, services, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments so unto the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors, as aforesaid, given, granted, aliened or bequeathed, in the whole, do not exceed the clear annual value of two hundred pounds by the year, besides all burthens and reprises, the statutes concerning lands and tenements not to be put into mortmain, or any other statute, act, ordinance, or provision heretofore had done, published, ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. And of our further special grace, and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, it is our pleasure and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors we do grant, give, restore, confirm, ratify, and approve to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors; and also to the burgesses and free men of the borough aforesaid, for the time being, all and all manner of manors, messuages, mills, lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, woods, underwoods, rents, rivers, waters, fisheries, and so many, so great, such, the same, the like, both councils, offices, officiaries, and other offices and officiaries, customs, liberties, franchises, immunities, exemptions from paying tolls at Chester, and other exemptions, privileges, powers, quittances, rights, jurisdictions, wastes made, original wastes, foundations, ways, falls,* markets, fairs, marts, tolls, tollages, deodands, goods and chattles of felons, fugitives and outlaws, tributes, grain in specie upon market days, commodities, profits, emoluments, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever; as, how great, the like and which (by whatsoever names, or by whatsoever

^{*} Falls, Falla, or Cadæ seems to relate to small pieces of waste adjoining to roads, &c., less (in content) than an acre; the word Fallum being an ancient term of measurement, something like our present Perch.

name, or by whatsoever incorporation, or pretext of any name or incorporation) the late mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid or their predecessors, or the burgesses or free men of the borough aforesaid have heretofore had held, used or enjoyed, or ought to have hold, use or enjoy, by reason or pretext of any charters or letters patent by any of our progenitors or predecessors (late Kings and Queens of England), in anywise heretofore made, granted or confirmed, or by any other legal manner, right, title, custom, use of prescription heretofore limited, granted, used, had, or accustomed, under, nevertheless, the limitations and provisions aforesaid; to have hold and enjoy all and singular the premises aforesaid above, by these presents given, granted, or confirmed to the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of our borough of Wigan and their successors, and the burgesses and free men of the borough aforesaid respectively, as aforesaid, for ever under the limitations and provisions aforesaid; and to yield and pay therefore yearly unto us, our heirs and successors, so many, so great, such, the same and the like rents, services, sums of money and demands whatsoever; as, how great, the like and which for the same or any one, or any of them heretofore have been accustomed, or of right ought to be yielded and paid. Wherefore it is our pleasure and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, by firmly enjoining, we command that the aforesaid Mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid and their successors may hold, use, enjoy, and can and may be able for ever to have hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all the liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, customs, grants, franchises, quittances, lands, tenements, and hereditaments aforesaid, and all their goods and chattles whatsoever, according to the tenor form and effect of these our letters patents, without the lett, trouble, or hindrance of us, our heirs or successors, justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whatsoever. We being unwilling that the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, or their successors, or any one, or any of them, by reason of the premises or any of them, be troubled, molested, disquieted, or bewithened, or in any thing disturbed by us, our heirs, or successors, justices, sheriffs, eschaetors, bailiffs, or other ministers of us, our heirs, or successors whomsoever; we being also willing and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, charging and commanding, as well the treasurer, chancellor, barons of our Exchequer at Westminster, and other justices of us, our heirs and successors, as our Attorney and Solicitor-General for the time being, and every of them and all other ministers and officers of us, our heirs and successors for the time being whomsoever. That neither they nor any, or any one of them, issue out, prosecute or continue, or make or cause, or any one of them make or cause, to be issued out, prosecuted or continued, any writ or summons of Quo Warranto, or any other writ, writs, or processes of us whatsoever, against the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any one, or any of them, for any causes, things, matters, offences, claims and usurpations, or any of them, by them or any of them, attempted, claimed, accustomed, had made or usurped, before the Being also willing that, in or for a debt or making of these our letters patent. claim, or abuse of any other liberties, privileges, franchises, or jurisdictions within the borough aforesaid, the liberties, limits, and precincts thereof before the day of the making of these our letters patent, the same mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, or any of them by any one or any the justices, sheriffs, officers, or ministers aforesaid, be in nowise molested or hindered, or compelled to answer to the same, or any one or any of them, because that express mention concerning the true annual value, or concerning the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or concerning other gifts or grants by us, or by any of our progenitors or predecessors unto the aforesaid mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, before these times made, in these presents is in nowise made, or any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction to the contrary thereof, heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding; in testimony of which thing we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the Twenty-fifth day of February, in first year of our reign.

PIGOTT."

The Corporation, according to the charter, consisted of 32 persons, the Mayor, Recorder, twelve Aldermen, and eighteen Capital Burgesses, the last being chosen from "the more discreet and substantial" inhabitants of the borough to form the The Recorder, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses retained their Common Council. offices "during their natural lives" respectively, except in the cases of official misconduct, for which they could be removed by a majority. The Mayor was Sir Roger Bradshaigh, of Haigh; the Recorder, Bertie Entwistle, and the twelve Aldermen, besides the Mayor, who was, of course, an alderman, William Daniell, Esquire, Robert Baron, William Glover, Ralph Markland, Robert Letherbarrow, Thomas Bancks, Thomas Turner, Lawrence Anderton (gentleman), Robert Ford, Christopher Sompner, James Scott, and William Deane. The Town Clerk was Lawrence Anderton, who had succeeded his father, John Anderton, in that office. He was the Clerk of the Borough, Clerk of the Statutes, Merchant Coroner, Clerk of the Markets, and Ulnager. Ulnager or Alnager is a word which, like the business to which it referred, is now obsolete. The Ulnager was an officer appointed to inspect and seal cloth and other goods, and to collect the dues or revenues thence The important office of the Bailiwick was filled by John Keeling and The Sergeants at Staves for the Borough were John Markland William Langton. and Edward Fairclough.

The Corporation had the power of forming and enforcing bye-laws, which, according to their belief, were for the benefit of the borough. It was lawful to break, change, and make anew the common seal of the borough as it seemed expedient or needful.

The transactions of the Common Council of Wigan are fairly recorded from 1685, and, although the historian has not the questionable privilege of long columns of garrulous verbatim debates, according to the system of modern municipal reports, yet the minutes preserved are sufficient proof that the Council was both an active and useful one. These minutes chiefly refer to complaints from injured burgesses, applications for the renewal of burghal rights and new admissions, fines levied on delinquents for trespass on burghal rights, and the remission of those fines to persons who show just cause for it. The Council had powers of punishing similar to those of magistrates of the present day. Frequent were the petitions of what would now be considered petty grievances, although in those days they were of concerns of vital interest, according to the beliefs of the prevailing Conservative and protective spirit of Nothing seems to have been too insignificant for the consideration of the Council when the interests of the town or the rights of the citizens were concerned, and yet the local government was as inexpensive as possibly could be. Extravagance on the one hand and meanness on the other were alike rigidly guarded against.

So much authenticated information concerning this period exists that almost every particular of local government can be told. It was in 1685 that the first Common Council of Wigan was constituted by Royal charter. The duties of this Council were entirely of a local nature, pertaining solely to the "good government of the Corporation," and were neither less extensive nor less important than those of the modern Town Council. They had duties, long obsolete, to perform, which were quite equal in importance to affairs about which the verbosity of modern Councillors is constantly circumambulating, and which did not so much as exist in the times of our corporate forefathers. They seem to have been as anxious to prevent poverty as the moderns are to cure it, and that prevention was founded on the most conservative principles of Protection. Social and commercial reciprocity of a doubtful or risky nature was condemned, and free trade that did not yield an immediate return of cash was considered the worst and most hopeless species of commercial The laws for protecting the borough from an influx of poverty are worthy the reader's consideration. There is always a tendency for country people to migrate into the towns, and especially on the part of the labouring classes, because wages and advantages are greater in large towns; but these are the very classes which, if thrown out of work, become burdensome to the parishioners. All their capital is their physical ability, and the moment they are disabled their capital ceases to bear a money value, and they are immediately burdensome. Now, although Wigan was responsible for the poor born within its walls, it seemed to consider most seriously the frailties of the human frame, and rejected able-bodied men who were anxious to work for a living within its walls simply because there was a likelihood of their becoming burdensome. All who were not naturalised townsmen, or who were the offspring of aliens, were called foreigners, and laws concerning these foreigners were of the strictest nature. The town seemed to consider a great favour was conferred on a foreigner, whose services were most valuable to the town, when he was permitted, on payment of a heavy fine, to live and work within the walls. town was divided into six districts, Wallgate, Hallgate, Millgate, Market Stead, Standishgate, and Woodhouses, and each district was presided over by two overseers. Besides this there were gatewaiters for each district, and every gatewaiter had to report to the Council every foreigner who came into his district upon pain of a fine. Foreigners and the harbourers of foreigners were heavily fined. Employers of labour were forbidden to give them employment without special permission. Every such stranger anxious to be employed had to present his credentials of ability, good character, and monetary condition to the Council, after which a special licence was By such strict means it was almost impossible for a fresh importation of poverty into the town. The minutes of the meeting of the Corporation at which the first members of the Common Council were appointed, with the autographs of those elected, is here subjoined:—

"Whereas, his gratious Majesty James the Second, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of ye Fayth, &c., by his Royal Charter, granted in ye first year of his Majesty's reign to yo Corporaceon of Wigan, in the County Pallatine of Lancaster, hath given power and authority to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knight & Baronett, the Mayor, Aldermen, and ye Recorder for the tyme being, to nominate, elect, and constitute a Comon Councill for the good governmt. of the sd Corporacion, as by the said Charter may fully appear. Therefore the sayd Mayor, with yo right impowered as aforesaid, whose names are subscribed, being mett and assembled to consider and what Burgesses resident wthin ye sayd Corporacion are most able and fitly qualified to be members of ye sayd Comon Councell, They doe unanimously elect, appoynt, ordaine, and constitute Law. Anderton Towne Clerk, Henry Row, William Briggs, William Langshaw, Thomas fford, junz., Gerrard fford, Thomas fford, senior, Thomas Cooper, James fford, George Brown, Charles Leigh, Gilbert Longshaw, Robert Bankes, John Baldwin, Robert Mason, Thomas Bankes, Robert Brown, Richard Leatherbarrow, to be members of the sayd Comon Councell, and to have power from tyme to tyme to act freely and effectually therein according to ye tenour, purport, effect, and Charter.

"In witness whereof we hereunto have put our hands the 21st day of Aprill, in the sayd first yeare of ye Reign of or Sovereign Lord . . 1685."

Lawrence Anderton, Town Clerk. George Brown. Henry Row. Charles Leigh. William Briggs. Gilbert Lonshaw. William Langshaw. Robert Bankes. Thomas fford, junior, John Baldwin. Gerrard fford. Robert Mason. Thomas fford, senior. Thomas Bankes. Thomas Cooper. Robert Brown. James fford. Richard Leatherbarrow.

The above are all in the same handwriting.

Elected April 20th, 1685, by R. Bradshaigh, Mayor.

Bertie Entwisle.

William Daniell.

Robt. Baron.

Elected April 20th, 1685, by R. Bradshaigh, Mayor.

Tho. Turner.

Lawr. Anderton.

Robt. fforde.

Ra. Markland.

Ro. Letherbarow.

Thomas Banks.

The above are autographs.

Every member of the Common Council had solemnly to vow, in the presence of the others, that he would do his very utmost to preserve the liberties and privileges and good government of the town. Instead of having every idle word of the Council reported to the public, as in modern times, each member had to swear on oath that he would keep secret his own opinions and counsels as well as those of his colleagues, and thus the Council very much resembled an Irish secret society for the public good. The following is a copy of the oath of one of the Common Council:—

The Oath of one of the Comon Council.

You shall doo your endeavour to advance the comon good of this town, you shall to your power maintain the liberties and firanchisies thereof. You shall be ready, at the comandmt. of the Maior, either by himself or any other of his officers, to attend and be present at the Comon Councill. You shall there assist the Maior or his deputy with yr. best advise and council fior the good and welfare of this town and the firanchisies thereof. (Soe long as you shall continue one of the members thereof.) Your own council and your fellows touching such matters as shall be moved therein you shall not disclose. You shall do your endeavour that everything therein agreed upon shall be put in execucion according to the contents thereof, and all and everything to be done by you as one of the Comon Councill you shall faithfully and justly to yr. power and knowledge, so long as you shall continue to be one of the members thereof, maintain and keep, so help you God.

When apprentices became journeymen they at once ascended the social scale, and even the meanest trade was considered something far above ordinary manual labour, for the calling of a slater was considered an "art, trade, and mystery." It is not uninteresting to observe what high testimonials men gave themselves when applying to the Corporation to be made freemen. The following is a petition of Thomas Houghton, slater, to be made a burgess of the town, and the reasons he gives for claiming the privileges, as well as the verdict of the jury on his case:—

To ye Word ye Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of Thomas Houghton, Sclater,

Sheweth,—That yor petr hath duely served for the space of seaven years in the art, trade, and mystery of a Slater, and hath honestly and justly demeaned himselfe therein, and thereby satisfied most of the inhabitants of this Towne, and other the gentlemen and neighbouring inhabitants, of his skill (?) and not (?) demeaned in his said Trade, and now yor petr being informed of that Towne being att want of a workman to serve them, and yor petr being a single man (?),

Humbly desires your Wopps would bee pleased to admitt him a freeman of this Burrough. And yor petr, as in duety bound, will ever pray, &c.

Wee order that the petr shall be sworne a freeman, paying ffive pounds before he be sworne.

The gatewaiters, as previously shown, were frequently fined for neglect of duty, for, although they were very strict guardians of their district, the public eye was continually upon them, and seemed to be much more on the alert than their own official eye, for everybody considers himself the master of a public servant, even when that public servant has no honorarium attached to his office. In the following petition the gatewaiter prays for the rescinding of the fine imposed for neglect of duty. The jury acknowledge they are unable to come to a unanimous determination in the case, and simply subscribe their verdict of *Ignoramus*:—

To ye Word ye Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of James Wood, covilet weaver,

Sheweth,—That yo' pet' was finide in ten shillings for neglect of his yo' pet's office of a gatewaiter or —— looker, and for that the said fine estreated to six shillings eightpence. And distress made and taken for ye said ffine to yo' peticon's great damage and losse. And also sheweth that yo' pet' was fined in two guineas (?) at Michs leet last past for neglecting his oath and office afforced, we said ffine is not as yett estreated, we's if estreated will tend to yo' pet's great loss and utter ruine.

Therefore yo' pet' humbly prayes the said distress may be restored and ye said ffines remitted.

And yo' pet' will ever pray, &c.

Ignoramus.

Some of the preserved Court Leet records contain not only very interesting information, but occasionally there crops up a deed or relic which shows a somewhat ludicrous phase of borough life. The man of little authority was continually lifting his little consequential head and declaring himself the recognised limb of the law. The bailiffs must have been a terror to every transgressor. Their eagle eyes often indeed saw what was unseen by others, but to be prosecuted by them for any offence, however improbable its commission, seemed to ensure a fine. It seems to have been ordered by law-to give an instance-that during the dog days all dogs should be muzzled, upon pains and penalties. A licence was required, too, for In 1685 an inhabitant, John Lowe, was brought up before his keeping a dog. Worship the Mayor, a Common Council, and jury of his fellow-townsmen, for keeping a bitch unmuzzled. Lowe was somewhat annoyed, but, thinking he had a good case, appeared, in all confidence and humility, before the honourable Council to answer the charge. He seems first to have proved that the bitch was a licensed one, and then he showed to his own satisfaction, although seemingly not to that of the jury, that the bitch was not unmuzzled. Thinking, however, to strengthen his arguments, and so avoiding a heavy fine, which doubtless he was ill able to bear, and which, however small it might be, he was assured would be unjust, he further proceeded to prove that he had no bitch, and therefore could not muzzle her. However, the jury and Common Council were not to be shaken in the unanimous opinion which they had formed from the evidence of the bailiffs, and the dumbfounded Lowe was fined thirteen shillings and fourpence. Against this decision he appealed to the next Court in the following petition:-

To yo Word ye Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of Jone Lowe,

Humbly sheweth,—That your peticoner was prosecuted and fined at a Leet for keeping a Bitch unmussilled, and y^e said fine estreated the sume of thirteen shillings and fourpence. And also sheweth that the said Bitch is dead above halfe a yeare since, and that she never did any p'son or p'sons whatsoever to y^r pet^{rs} knowledge. But the Balbos have since distrained, contrary to law, as y^r pet^r is informed.

Therefore yor petr humbly prays that the s^d Distresse may be restored and the said fine remitted, and your peticon will ever pray, &c.

Referred to ye Bad Accounts-(Corporation Original Documents).

Like Dandie Dinmont, in Sir Walter Scott's "Antiquary," there were people in Wigan who would go to law, and some exceedingly paltry cases were brought before the Court Leet. There were burgesses and inhabitants who seemed to think that the entire duty of the Mayor, Council, and Jury was to find out and rectify petty grievances, nuisances, and insignificant individual disputes. Although the Council generally attended to all cases, the jury cut many of the petitioners short by simply signing, as in the following instance, *Ignoramus*, signifying "We are unable to agree":—

To ye Worf ye Maior, Aldermen, Comon Concellmen assembled.

The humble peticon of John Thorneton, Maulster,

Sheweth,—That whereas there has always been a sufficient hedge and ditch made betwirt the said John Thorneton's mauld (hey or ley) and Hugh Platt's feild leading from the leane that passes betwirt the foot of the Millgate and henhurst bridge up to the middle of the said feilds, and always known to be mended and repaired by the said Hugh platt or his order by makeing the Copp out of the said Maltshey, and now the said Hugh platt hath removed the most part of the said Copp and layed it abroad in his feild for the bettering thereof, which is to the ruin of the said fence and contrary to custome, and very likely to prove in a short time to be an Incroac'mt against the said John Thorneton.

Therefore your pet^r prays your Wor^{pps} be pleased to lett it be vewed by the Jurry and put into the same like order as it usually hath been, or as they think fit. And yo^r pet^r will ever pray for yor Wor^{pps} good health.

Ignoramus.

A new broom sweeps clean, and the newly-inaugurated great Common Council of 1685 was to be no exception to the proverbial expression. Every Councillor seemed to consider himself specially as the head master and guardian of the ancient borough, so that these officers very soon became officious and sometimes offensive, like policemen, whose promotion often follows on the number of charges they make. As members of the Common Council, they undoubtedly believed they had placed their feet on the rung of the ladder that led to popularity, if not fame. It was, therefore, their duty and pleasure, they considered, to please those in a dignified way, who had the power to make them popular or famous. But their chief difficulty then, as in modern times, was to please without offence, for they soon discovered that the moment a man declares himself a candidate for public honours enemies arise, and attack, where bosom friends are supposed to be. Further, as Town Councillors, they found that to do the greatest good to the greatest number with the greatest credit to themselves was to reduce rates, curtail expenses, and yet increase comforts, or by some subtle strategy succeed in obtaining payment for public benefits from private funds. There were plenty of nuisances, real and assumed, to grumble at in the town; but perhaps nothing grieved the general public so much as private individuals having to pay for the cleansing of the streets, which were undoubtedly so filthy because of the trade from the country into the town on market days. was a shame, said the inhabitants, that they should have to pay for scavenging away

what merchants, traders, and stall holders had carelessly or for their own immediate convenience thrown down. The new Town Council took up the question, favoured the grumbling of the inhabitants, as became the candidates for popular favour, revoked the custom of old payments, and made a law that the payment for cleansing the streets should be deducted from the toll dues. Thus the inhabitants were pleased, and the Councillors became local heroes; but the decision was appealed against by the sergeants-at-mace in the following petition, about which, however, Mayor, Common Council, and Jury could not agree:—

To the Wors the Maior, Aldermen, and Common Concell at this time assembled.

The humble pet of John Markland and William ffinch, gen., Serjis at Mace for yo Burrough of Wigan, Sheweth,—That yor petrs are informed that this Board has orded the Markett street to be made cleane out of the Toll rents on Markett days, wen yor petrs are willing to comply with, although it hath never beene done time out of minde by any serjis. And yor petrs also show that p'sons, as well ffreemen as not ffreemen within this Burrough, to the numbr of nyneteene . . . their ffreedome and otherwise, sett out stalls on yo Markett days, and take two or more stalls for themselves and family,

wch is the reason yt ye street is see often dirtyed, though they nev pay any Tolls wthin the Towne.

Therefore yr petre humbly pray yt ye so ord may be repealed, and that the street may be made cleane as formerly it hath been by the Baliffes at the Towne's charge, or that the p'sons being ffreemen and not freemen and others may make ye plaies they see stand on cleane, or that yor Worppe will make an order yt every p'son and p'sons haveing and setting standings and stalls in the Markett street as afores on Markett dayes pay unto yor petre for every such stall and standing such sume of money as yor Worppe shall think fitt, and yor Worppe will ever pray, &c.

Ignoramus.

More and more did Wigan grow important as a market town. It not only continued to be a great military centre, but the whole neighbourhood grew in agricultural importance, and so considerable were the profits made on market days from public sales in the streets that there was a large increase of foreigners anxious to erect stalls on the Market Place, whilst many burgesses and foreigners, alike anxious to attract the public and secure customers, made stalls on the street that, because of their obstructive proportions, became a perfect nuisance to passengers as well as a means of swindling the Corporation of just rates, for each stall, regardless of its size, cost a fixed rate. Demand creates supply, but an over-supply may ruin the producer, and a glut in the market often causes a reaction in commercial prosperity. Where one makes a fortune, thousands rush in the belief that each can do the same, forgetful that in the same market each can only receive the one thousandth part of that fortune. Thus the stalls in Wigan Market grew obnoxiously in size and number, and the following new bye-law was, therefore, made by the Common Council in 1685:-

Wee ord that every stall shall containe not above seven feete in length and five feete in breadth; and wee move and that noe person shall have more than one stall, and that every freeman shall be acquitted of Toll for one stall if he have more, but to pay as forreinor doe, and that every fforreinor shall pay 4d. a piece for a covered stall, threepence for an open one, on Markett days, provided by

the Towne, and threepence for one stall they provided for themselves on Markett days, and the Baliffes colect the sum till further ord^{r.,} and that the Serjeants make cleane the Markett street out of the other Toll on Markett days.

It is orded that the Serj's shall collect all the Toll accordings to the within writen ord., and distraine for the same (if it be refused), and thereout to take to themselves one halfpenny, which they now and we and the sd ordr is confirmed in every other particular.

Ordered that after ye let Jan. next noe p'son will bring or give any almes to any poor, unless they have licens to begg, on paine of on every p'son so offending. And that the Bellman ringe on the next Markett day at high Markett, and twice on the Markett day following that at high Markett doe p'claime the ordr. that there may bee noe ofens committed contrary to this ordr.

There are people who will commence to build without first counting the cost, and there has been more than one instance in Wigan of building hotels or public houses for which the hoped-for licence has been refused after the edifice has been No town in the country was a greater practical advocate for protection The introduction of every possible kind of free trade was provided against by local law. No man of means, without special permission, could settle in the parish, and spend his money for the benefit of the town, lest advantage might be taken of such settlement for trade purposes. A man who bought a property. rented a farm, paid taxes and rents, and was a good neighbour and honourable man, was liable to be fined for selling as a foreigner. If a burgess through ill-health was unable to attend to his own business, and had only the alternative of bringing men from another town to do his work for him or himself become a burden on the parish, he could not do the former lest the incomers or foreigners should start in business for themselves. These imported men were liable to be fined for inhabiting in the town without leave, and for practising their trades to the detriment of burgesses of the same calling, and the burgess who imported them was liable to be fined for harbouring them. Young men, tradesmen, who were anxious to do business for themselves, had to prove before the Mayor, burgesses, and jury that they were good workmen, had served their apprenticeship in Wigan, and were by no means likely to become burdensome to the town on account of weak health or bad habits, and that they wished to practise trades which were likely to be profitable. following petitions, published for the first time, from the documents in the possession of the Wigan Corporation, illustrate the protective tendency of the borough in the seventeenth century. They are all from the Court Leet transactions of 1685:—

To the Worf the Maior, Aldermen, and Comon Councell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of John Clare, Malstr.

Sheweth,—That yor petr hath farmed a house of £10 cleere yearly, besides paying taxes, from Robert Orrell, and hath also farmed a close called the Pyes from Mr. Sam. Anderton, Junr., at £7. But now being informed he is ffined for liveing in this Towne, for inhabiting in this Towne, being a forreiner. And yor petr being noe wise likely to bee chargeable to this Towne.

Humbly prays you will admitte him a freeman on a reasonable ffine, or that you will remitte the ffine charged on him, he giveing surety to save the Towne harmless, as the laws in that case descird. And yo' pet' will ever pray, &c.

Wee ordr him to pay £4, and bee sworne a fireeman, and his fline remitted.

To the Word the Major, Aldermen, and Comon Councell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of William Baldwin, shoemaker,

Sheweth,—That your petitioner, being sick and out of health, did take Joseph Sutton and John Lambath to be his journeymen, to helpe and assist him in his trade, in order to maintaine your peticoner and his family, that they might bee noe wayes burthensome to the Towne. But it happened that your peticoner was presented att a Court Leet here holden and ffined, and the same is estreated to [illegible], and the Bailifes have taken a distress for the same for harbouring them as forreiners.

Therefore your peticoner prays, the said Journeymen being removed out of this Towne, that the said distresse may be restored and the ffine remitted, and your peticoner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

The ffine remitted to iiip. in all.

To the Worf Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Comon Concell att this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Gerard Bancks, of Wigan, Pewterer,

Sheweth,—That whereas yor peticon^r late father was an Alderman and Burgess of this Corporation, and that yor peticon^r beinge desirous to bee some wayes serviceable to this Corporation.

Hee therefore desires yo' Worps to elect and sware him a Burgess of this Corporation, the better to capacitate him to serve in any office hee shall bee elected or called unto. And yo' peticon will ever pray, &c.

Wee ordr the petr to bee sworne a Burgesse.

To the Worpp^d the Maior, Recorder, Aldermen, and Comon Concell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Richard Knight, Linenwebster,

Sheweth,—That whereas yo' pet' for the space of seven years last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of a Linenwebster, and hath demeaned himself well therein; sheweth that your pet' for the space of two years last past hath served as a Journeyman to the said traide of a Linenwebster in Pemberton, but hath maryed a wife in this towne, and hath lived in it ever since for the space of two years, and hath behaved himself honestly within the said Towne, and hath a Legall settlement within this Corporation, and as he, yo' peticoner, is informed, cannot be removed out of this Corporation lawfully, and further sheweth that your peticoner was fined at the last Leet by the Jury then sworne.

Therefore he humbly prayes that the said fine may be remitted and yor peticoner sworne a freeman of this Corporation, paying some small sume of money as your Worpps in your discretion shall think fitt. And yor petr as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Ordrd to remove to Pemberton, the last place of his settlement by his own confession, and a Wart to bee reg^{trd} for that purpose.

To the Worshipf¹¹ the Maior, Aldermen, and Comon Concell at this time assembled.

The humble peticon of Peter Greene and Peter Aspinall, Gunsmiths, and Roger Almond, Spurrier, within this Corporation, on the behalfe of themselves and other smiths within the same Corporation,

Sheweth,—That whereas yor peticon, and others, the ffreemen of the sd trades and occupations, have for severall years last past furnished this Corporation wth all mann of Gunsmith and Cutler's work wthout ye help of any fforaign, and that they are still ready, desirous, and willing to serve the

inhabitants thereof in their said trades, callings, and occupations at reasonable rates and prices. And yor peticone show that one Charles Robinson, a Cutler and Gunsmith, having lately peticoned yor worshipps to be a freeman of the same Corporation, which (as yor peticoners are informed) is ordered by yor worshipps to be sworne a ffreeman of this Corporation for a very small and inconsiderable sume of money, he haveing neither served his apprenticeship herein nor bound thereunto as an apprentice. And yor peticoners further show that if the said Charles Robinson be sworne a free man of this towne, will not only tend to the damage of the whole Corporation, but also to yor peticoners' great damage and utter Ruine (If not timely relieved by yor Worppa.)

Therefore yor peticoners humbly pray that yor Worppa will be pleased to consider the petition seriously, and that the said Charles Robinson may not be sworne a freeman of the Corporation, nor to admitt or suffer him to exercise or use the said trade of a Cutler therein. And also that yor Worppa will be pleased to Repeal and make void the said ord. And yor peticoners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

9th March, 1685.

The Jury award was :--

Wee doo Repeale the order heretofore made for ye swearing of Charles Robinson a ffreeman according to ye peticoners' request.

To the Honorable Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knight and Bart., Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, and to the Aldermen, Common Council, and Burghesses of the same borough.

The humble petition of Thomas Holinss, of Wigan aforesaid,

Sheweth,—That y^r petitioner, about the beginning of April last, in obedience to the command of Mr. King and Mr. Langton, now Bayliffes, did attend the dragoones then lyeing in this Burrough, and did march with the s^d dragoones, upon the said bayliffes' comand, to Drayton, with his cart and floure horses, and carrying a full load of carriage, and att the return of the said dragoones did, att the comand of the said bayliffes, march with the aforesaid teame, full laden, upon attendance of the said dragoones, to Warrington, and this petition furstly sheweth that, upon the 21st of September last, yo^r pet^r, upon the comand of Mr. Reeting, now Bayliffe, did attend with the teame aforesaid the four companys then remaining in Wigan, and did march along with them with his said team, full laden, to Lancaster, and was not discharged from this attendance of the said companys untill the 26th day of September aforesaid.

Yor peticonr, therefore, humbly desiring you to take into consideracion what losses yor peticonr hath herin sustained, not onely in neglect of his own affaires att home, but also beating (baiting) out his team upon the s^d sevrall marches, desires such satisfacion as you in yor discretion shall thinke fite herein, and yor pet^r shall ever pray, etc.

(Jury Award.)

Wee ordr that the pet^r and his partners shall have four pounds ten shillings allowed them by the Towne in satisfacion of the service aforesaid.

(Note on back.)

Though the petition mencons but one cart, yet there weare ffive carts employed upon the whole service within meconed, vidt., Mr. Earless, John Curghey, Widd. Ashton, and Oliver Bibbye, with ye s4 Tho. Holinss.

Rent in all of the souldiers, the sum of fforty shillings, beinge six dayes out

CHAPTER VII.

Derby—Bradshaigh—Balcarres—The King—King's Evil—Patients from Wigan—Bishop Cartwright—General Election—Sixemith Charity—Rebellion—Mr. Baldwin—Repair of Roads—Petitions—Dr. Layland—Bishop Stratford—The Church—Mayor's Gallery—New Member—Lancaster Plot—Blundell—Dr. Kuerden—Town described—Assault and Battery on Gatewaiters—Cases before the Grand Jury of 1697—Minutes of Court Leet from 1640.

THE direct connection of the Derby family with Wigan was severed by the martyrdom of that Earl who was the great hero of Wigan history during the Commonwealth period. At that time Derby's was undoubtedly the most distinguished family in Wigan. Wigan history was part and parcel of theirs. Considering the social position and power of the Bradshaighs of Haigh, they cannot be complimented on having, at this time, taken any part in guiding, restraining, or inciting Wiganers, or in any direct manner whatever influencing, for good or evil, either the political history or commercial development of Wigan. They were undoubtedly eclipsed, like the Standishes, by Derby. At the Restoration, however, the representative of that ancient family again came to the front, and from that day to this the history of the house of Haigh forms a part of the history of Wigan. Sir Roger, the head of the family then, was created a baronet in the thirty-first year of the reign of Charles II. (1679-80). The eldest sister of the fourth baronet (who died without male issue) inherited the estate, and was married to John Edwin, Esq., son of Sir Humphrey Edwin, and their daughter and heiress, Elizabeth Edwin, afterwards became the wife of Charles Dalrymple, Esq., of North Berwick, and mother of Elizabeth Dalrymple, with whom the estate of Haigh passed into the possession of Alexander Lindsay, sixth Earl of Balcarres, when she was married to him in 1780. The same right honourable family of Lindsay and Balcarres are still in possession of the estates, and have always been closely and kindly associated with the history of Wigan.

The pilgrimages to our Lady of Lourdes in modern times seem to those who do not believe in such things to be absurd in the extreme, but they cause no more excitement than did the pilgrimages of afflicted persons, to be touched for King's Evil, from Wigan to Chester in the seventeenth century. The public of Wigan defrayed all expenses; the Rector, churchwardens, or other influential persons in the town chose the "victims" of their own superstitious beliefs. The wonder is that in believing so much they did not believe much more, and send their blind, maimed, deaf, and dumb to be touched by the Lord's anointed. It needs no great stretch of imagination to see the procession of 21 persons assembled at the old Parish Church, and, after a solemn religious service, doubtless full of faith and fervour, starting with the heartfelt "God bless you" of the assembled inhabitants, and then wending their weary but hopeful way towards old Chester, with faith as great as that of the Jews who went down to the pool of Siloam. If implicity of faith in itself deserves any reward, surely these suffering wretches deserved to have their infirmities removed, for so great was their faith that if they unhappily remained uncured, as for the most part they certainly did, they blamed themselves with keen remorse for the unbelief of their habitually hardened and wicked hearts. It is not difficult to imagine that enthusiastic thought brought temporary relief to many, just as hypochondriac thoughts produce illness, and such convalescents, no doubt, would return with joyful thankfulness to Wigan, and offer praise with gratitude and sanctity in the church of their fathers.

Tyranny, blood, reckless rule, and blind bigotry were the constant allies of the James the Second could learn no lesson from the history of his ancestors. He showed the very same disposition which had roused the people to assassinate, dethrone, and plot against his forefathers. He was persecuting and putting to death witches and loyal subjects by Jeffreys, his proxy, and yet, in the pride of his heart, he believed he was humbling himself to go about doing good, and, strange to say, that, although civilisation had certainly made great progress, there were few in the land who did not believe that there lay in his royal touch the virtue to heal Wigan was not the only town that believed in his miraculous power. miraculously. It held the superstition in common with other towns. The king proclaimed it was his royal pleasure to make a tour through the land, but it was the timidity natural to a tyrant's mind that made him seem to be brave with scowls and angry words. He feared the people, and, whilst he trembled at heart, he made his gay progress, bullying those that hesitated, and favouring or destroying those that boldly braved him, while, to impress the nation at large with his greatness and power, he yielded to the national superstitious prejudice, and condescended to touch and so heal the He did not come to Wigan, but the incurable will go far to a scrofulous.

healing physician. A special order was required to enable the diseased to approach his presence at Chester. The Mayor, Rector, churchwardens, and burgesses issued these special licences, and there was a great demand for them. Special letters of introduction were written to the local authorities, describing the worthiness of the patient, and the licence holders themselves had special friends whom they wished to be made whole. Some were willing to give their wealth, and all earnestly prayed that they might be licensed to go, so firmly did they believe in the efficacy of the King's touch, but the number was limited. It was a time of election enthusiasm in the hot days of August. Twenty-one persons of both sexes and all grades of society were elected to go to Chester to receive the royal doctor's touch. Accompanied by their friends and music, and an important deputation with an introductory loyal address, the feeble pilgrims set out on their march, were touched, and returned, in many cases, the worse for their trouble. Their names are written in the Register (August 26th, 1687).

The following is extracted directly from the Parish Register:—"1687. August 26.—An Account of Certificates given to Persons within this Town and Parish of Wigan to be touched for the King's Evil by King James the Second att Chester City." Here follow the names of 21 persons—men, women, and children.

James II., as Sovereign of England, did not by any means consider himself out of the sphere or above and beyond all parties in politics. Instead of having no impartial leanings, but an honest determination to rule for the good of the country in a manner determined upon by his responsible advisers, he was a strongly biased He was the leader and taskmaster of his own ministers, and those who were unwilling to be subservient to him were by him disqualified to serve him. Powerful and privileged as British Sovereigns justly are, yet each is but one against a nation, and must, as the true representative of the nation, either quietly adopt its views or oppose them with tyrannical force, which may for a time succeed, although ultimately must inevitably succumb to the Constitution. A dogged tyranny was enforced by the Stuarts and their minions, lives as precious, if less noble, were sacrificed to their prejudiced personal convictions about divine right, the fundamental principles of which were that the Constitution was a mere accidental adjunct of the The Constitution and the people and the people the personal property of the king. individual king, with his minions and engines of war, were opposed, and, for a time, at dreadful cost, the latter won; but from the wreck and ruin of demolished properties and exhausted tyranny the Constitution reared its healthy head and peacefully maintained its rights. Thus James II. defied the national feeling, and was a tyrant, both personally and by proxy. His proxy in Wigan was the Rector, Bishop Cartwright, who, himself bearing the message of peace and good will to all men, favoured the king's severity, applauded his inhumanity, and extolled his zeal for religious and political persecution that sowed broadcast misery in all the land. He, himself a bishop, rejoiced at the persecution and arraignment of his own brethren whom Christianity honoured. He approved of the brutality of Jeffreys simply because the king approved, and he looked with complacency and unchristlike satisfaction on the punishments of those who had broken neither the moral nor divine law, but who had simply violated the superstitious prejudices of the age or dared to think and act inoffensively for themselves.

The king was by no means particular in the choice of his adherents, for necessity is obedient to the law of circumstances. Cartwright, from the mere fact of his being a clergyman, was a man of influence with some classes of people, and was, therefore, likely to be serviceable to the king, and thus royalty itself, so far degraded as to have to pretend to be trustful, made a tool of Cartwright without putting any faith in him or trusting him with any State secrets. The king had no respect for his morality and no faith in his religious belief. He believed he was neither Papist nor Protestant, but it answered his purpose to receive him into his household as a Protestant, believing he was the ordinary type of a clerical place seeker, and one far more capable of and willing to lay down his principles than sacrifice his life for his religion. Whatever Cartwright's end might be, he would certainly not be a martyr. Religion may bring success in life, but success is by no Cartwright went on from one preferment to another means a proof of religion. after the Restoration as if the gods were regardless of his ungodliness. who are not determined to cling to truth and right, he became unstable in all his He was constant only in his indecision, and decided ways and unhappy in mind. only in his endeavours to walk in the ways that seemed to lead to worldly wealth. Even on his death-bed, it is said, although the statement is not confirmed, he secretly acknowledged he was a Papist, and yet publicly declared himself a Protestant, like a condemned murderer who seeks to ease his conscience and obtain pardon by secretly confessing his crime to heaven while denying it to man.

Cartwright can neither be called a good Christian, an able bishop, nor an admirable man. Obsequiousness in any man is despicable, but much more so is it in a clergyman who seeks worldly preferments through it. He was a learned man, but of no steadfast principle or creed in religion. If Mahomedanism could have brought him position in life, there is no reason for believing he would not have been a Mahomedan. It is an easy matter to find fault and condemn, but when a human being has starvation staring him in the face, which a slight wavering of principle alone can avert, one humanely feels there is more room for pity than blame; but when an educated man—already well off in life and a minister of the Gospel—scorns principle, daily acts the hypocrite, and is a constant turncoat for momentary pleasure, the selfishness is so great that one can scarcely repress the

Cartwright was a politico-religious weather-vane, and that, too, feeling of contempt. in boisterous times. His principle was subservient to his interest. His own profit He was the direct contrast of his predecessor, Pearson, guided his vision and acts. who was constant in all things. He had clung to the Monarchy through the dark times of the Great Rebellion because he believed that in the end royalty would Like modern Tories, he had no faith in popular revolutions. That the king should have his own again seemed to be his creed, and accordingly he clung to the king, who had no faith in him, but could not afford to dispense with his services. He accompanied the self-exiled tyrannic-coward king to France, and was there chaplain to such of the Royalists as were Protestants. Obsequious professions of loyalty were his instruments of success.

He had been made domestic chaplain to Henry, Duke of Gloucester, Prebendary of Twyford in the Church of St. Paul, of Chalford in the Church of Wells, chaplain in ordinary to the king, and rector of St. Thomas the Apostle, London, and created Doctor of Divinity, although he had not the requisite qualifications to receive that In 1672 he was made Prebend of Durham, in 1677 he was made Dean of Ripon, and nearly obtained the bishopric of St. David's. The bishopric of Chester was the direct fruit of his sycophancy and subserviency to the king for boldly asserting in one of his sermons that the king's promises to Parliament were not The Duke of Sunderland, in the king's name, issued a warrant requesting the archbishop to appoint the newly-made Bishop of Chester to the Rectory of Wigan in 1686. The letter was in all respects similar to that issued in favour of Pearson. Copies of both letters may be seen in Local Gleanings, Part VII., Vol. I., p. 264. He was the most prominent ecclesiastical commissioner appointed by James to compel the Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, to accept a Roman Catholic chief. He shared the exile of the king and fled to Ireland to escape the persecutions of his many enemies, begotten by his bitter Jacobite proclivities. He died in Dublin 15th April, 1689, and was buried there.

The following ecclesiastical letter is from an original document in the Tanner MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Vol. 144, f. 34), and published for the first time in the first volume of Local Gleanings:—

James R.

Our Will and Pleasure is, that you grant your dispensation to the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas, Lord Bishop Elect of Chester, to hold the Rectory of Wigan, in our County of Lancaster, and the Diocesse of Chester, and the Vicaridge of Barking, in our County of Essex, and the Diocesse of London, in Commendam, together with the Bishoprick of Chester, with all the Rights, Profits, and Advantages thereunto belonging. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given at the Court at Windsor the 29th day of September, 1686, in the Second year of Our Reigne.

By his Maities command.

Sunderland.

To the most Reverend Father in God, William, Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan.

Wiganers who were not yet old could remember the terrible times of the Great Rebellion and the jubilant state of the country at the Restoration, and again in 1688 they were forced to interpret with gloomy foreboding the darkening political The infatuated James clung to the doctrines and deeds that had brought his father to the scaffold. He appointed sycophants and place-seekers to be his advisors, and, because they heartily applauded all his speeches and projects, he foolishly persuaded himself he could easily carry everything in the country before him. injustice and tyranny made the timid tremble, but aroused, also, the unconquerable tempers of gallant men. The timidity of weaklings and the inaction of men who were willing to bear much before they arose against their king was interpreted by him as a sign of national submission and subjugation, and, as if gloating over his own tyranny, he grew still more tyrannous and unconstitutional in his mode of government. Never was there a more cruel, unjust, or bloodthirsty Lord Chancellor than his minion, Jeffreys. The folly of the king's wisdom was soon seen. rebellious subjects invited the Prince of Orange to accept the crown, and then James, like every tyrant, was shown to be a coward at heart. In the only Parliament of James Wigan burgesses had sold or given themselves over to the royal party, the Tory, but they soon regretted their act. The cautious William, before he was proclaimed king, summoned a council of Lords and those who had been members of Parliament in the reign of Charles II., and, by their advice, called upon boroughs and counties to send their representatives to a General Convention, for he was careful not to use the word Parliament, although the Convention was afterwards constituted a Parliament. According to a proclamation made by William in the London Gazette of 7th January, 1688-9, the election war cry of "a fair field and no favour" went forth. All soldiers were to be withdrawn from the neighbourhood on the election days, and burgesses and other voters were to be left entirely to the freedom of their own will. They were not to be influenced Writs were issued, but there were few contests, and yet in any way whatever. most of the old members were ousted. In Wigan, as in most other places, political feeling ran high. There the government of the king had been condemned before his flight, although, as usual, Wigan staunchly adhered to the king personally. inhabitants had long before determined to oust the two Tory members, Charles, Earl of Ancrum, and Lord Charles Murray, the son-in-law of Lord Derby, and to return They had determined that neither money nor exertion their own representatives. should be spared to return two Whigs, and when the day of battle came the voters, like one man, went for and returned Sir Edward Chisenhall, knight, and William Bankes, both Whigs of their own choice. There was no corruption, and their votes had no market value, as on previous occasions. Conscience and a purity ticket

carried the day. It was the first election in Wigan by which two Whigs were returned, and that, too, at the humiliation of two Tories. The Convention was dissolved on the 26th February, 1688-9, and a general election for the first Parliament under William and Mary took place in Wigan on the 20th March, 1689-90, when a Tory, Peter Shackerley, and a Whig, Sir Richard Standish, Bart, were returned. This change in the representation was caused by the political reaction consequent on the general ill-feeling aroused by the vindictiveness of the Whigs. Not only were the seats contested in Wigan, but all over the country, with a decided Tory majority as a result.

Robert Sixsmith, by his will bearing date 4th January, 1688, devised two closes in Wigan and one in Ince-in-Mackerfield to the poor, indigent, and needful people in Wigan, for ever, at the will and discretion of his trustees, together with the overseers of the town, ten days before Christmas yearly. The receipts in 1839 were about £30 a year, one-half of which went to the poor of Scholes, and the remainder was divided amongst the indigent of Hallgate, Millgate, Standishgate, and Wallgate. Full particulars of this charity may be seen in the Report of the Commissioners The Commissioners found great objection to the manner in which the charity was distributed, especially in the case of the overseers, who gave a moiety of the sum at their disposal to every poor person. "Except the Rector," says the Report, "all the persons above-named (distributing overseers) have adopted nearly the same mode of distribution, and have given something to every poor person in their respective districts. As the population is very large, the sums given to each scarcely ever exceed one shilling, and are very frequently as low as twopence. This practice seems highly objectionable, and we think it is incumbent upon the trustees to meet together and decide upon a more useful system of application, and it seems desirable that they should unite in selecting the objects of charity instead of leaving the choice to any individual."

Mr. Baldwin, of Standishgate, was churchwarden in 1676 and mayor in 1689. His grandson was the Rev. Thomas Baldwin, Vicar of Leyland, whose daughter, Mary Ann, was married to John Woodcock, of Newburgh. Their son, Thomas, founded the Wigan Bank in 1792. A detailed account of this prominent and esteemed family will be given in its chronological position.

Cromwell complained of the badness of the roads in the neighbourhood of Wigan in his day, and, although they were repaired, yet one could scarcely believe, without written testimony, how disreputable was their condition in the reign of James II. The worst country lanes of the present day are in a far better condition than the turnpikes of Wigan were in 1688. Had Wigan been a mere outside country village, this would not have been so very remarkable; but it was one of

the most important towns on the great highway to the North. King's messengers and troops to and from Scotland by the west coast route had to pass through it. Merchants with their carts, ladies and gentlemen in their carriages, and equestrian travellers traversed these roads, which were narrow and ill-kept, covered with rocks and hills, hollows and ruts like ditches right across, boggy, sinking, and soft. Groves, bushes, brooms, brambles, and gorse grew irregularly here and there, sometimes even in the very middle of the highway, whilst trees spread their great branches over to the danger of the traveller. It was decided at the Quarter Sessions of 1688 that a thorough renovation should take place, and, had the order then issued been carried out, roads of a most excellent description would have been made; but thirty-four years afterwards—1722—as lamentable an account as ever is given of the king's highway. It is evident that in 1688 the turnpikes were so disreputably and irretrievably bad that the expense of repairing them frightened the overseers from undertaking a thorough repair. Private enterprise was necessary, but found wanting, and no way of recouping the expenditure could be hit upon without a special Act of Parliament, which was certainly not applied for then. not exist near Wigan then, nor could they be erected without the consent of Parliament. In the following order the condition of the road is well described. is taken from the Chetham Society's Publications, vol. ix., p. 174 (the Norris Papers) :-

Order of Sessions for Repair of Roads in the Hundred of West Derby. 1688.

At a General Quarter Sessions tent, per adjorn, apud Ormskirke, in the P. Com. Lanc., decimo sexto die Julii et majestatis Domini Jacobi secdi Angli, &c., quarto.

This Court, upon consideracon of the great decay of the King's high wayes, and the long neglect of the sufficient repaires thereof in this county, resolving to make a thorowe reformacon hereof in each Town and Vill., Doth hereby order that all and every the King's Highwayes in each parish, Towne, and place, within the hundred of Darby, shall forthwith be put in perfect and good repaire, that they may be made soe wide, see smoothed from little rocks, little hills, hollows, and sloods, and all unevenesse, free from all boggie, sinking, soft, deep, and formed crouse places, ridd of all sorts of rubbish, and so sufficiently passable throughout that all coaches, carts, and carriages may safely, in all places, going by the calsey, meet and passe each other; that all ditches which convey the water crosse the highway be soughed with wall stone, and well covered throughout, from one side of the lane to the other; that the ditches running on each side of the lane be well secured, and the earth or sand cast thereout not left in heaps, but either spread to levell the way in lowe places or removed out of the way. That hedges on each side of the lanes be cutt, and the trees lopped that in any wise annoy the highway, and the loppings removed out of the way. That all trees, underwood, groves, bushes, brooms, brambles, gorses, and the like, be well ridd up, and totally removed out of the said lanes. And that all the holes occasioned by ridding the same, as also all pits, stacks and hollows, little hills, and heaps of earth and rubbish be levelled and made even. Where the said wayes are cumbered with loose stones or other rubbish, or knotty, uneven calseys, that such calsey be pulled up and new paved, and the unnecessary stones and rubbish removed, and that all calseys be made of the full breadth of one yard and a quarter, of round stones, and not of flaggs, and that all places where calseys are of flaggs, that if round stones may be had with a reasonable charge, that the flagged calseys be pulled

up, and new calseys with round stones made in the place or such other place of the lane as may be more convenient of the full length aforesaid, or a well gravell'd way in lieu thereof, and that there be no channel paved for the water to be drained crossed the calsey, except such drains be soughed, covered, and paved over, and that it be so covered the full breadth of the calsey as may make it safe by day and night for horsemen to ride over. And all and every the overseers of the highways within the said hundred are hereby required to see this order duly and fully executed. And this Court, being of opinion that no gentleman will take it amisse to be intreated to promote and give his help to see publique and see good a worke, hath thought fit to noiate for each pish wthin this Hundred of Darby severall Gentlemen, and so desire them or any two or more of them to call before them the respective overseers of the highways within each township within the said pishes, and with them to inspect the severall Highways, and upon their view to direct each overseer within his particular precinct what reformacon, according to the Court's direction before herein specified, is to be had in all points, and how and in what manner the said overseer, with the aid of the instructions, shall proceed. And that the said Gents., or some of them, will please to have sometimes an eye to the said workes whilst they are in doinge, and will at the next sessions after Michaelmas next certifie the Court how this worke is in all or in part performed, and which of the said overseers or Inhabitants have been remisse or faultie, and howe or what part of the wayes or worke is neglected or omitted, and why? that the Court may at the said sessions take such course thereupon as the case shall require, and to these ends the Court hath thought fit to noiste for the severall pahes the persons following, viz., for the parish of Wigan :-

Thos. Gerard, Esq.; Wm. Standish, Esq.; Philip Langton, Esq.; Wm. Bankes, Esq.; Thos. Ashton, Esq.; Bertie Entwisle, Esq.; Peter Adlington, Esq.; Mr. Thos. Ince, Mr. Peter Worthington, Mr. Robert Markland, Mr. Peter Catterall, Mr. Wm. Blayborne, Mr. Lawrence Anderton.

And, lastly, it is ordered that the High Constables of other parishes then polling the Hundred of Darby shall forthwith send copies of this order at large, to be sent to some of the Gentlemen herein named of each pish within the said Hundred, to be communicated to the rest within his pish respectively.

Kenyon.

The three following petitions for 1689 are of great interest. The first one shows clearly what an immense hold the Common Council had over the ordinary The Prussian military system of the present day can inhabitants of the town. scarcely be more disagreeable or strict. A man could neither go out of the town nor go into it without the consent of the Council. If one wished to go to another borough, he had first of all to report himself before the Common Council, there make known his intentions, and receive a certificate testifying to his abilities. conduct, and social and monetary condition. No sort of work, however menial, could be performed without the consent of the local viceregal government, and even Crouchley and Taylor, the petitioners, could not undertake to awaken the workpeople during the dark wintry mornings for a few odd coppers a week without a special licence from the overseeing body. In the other two petitions the most remarkable thing is the difference of amount of payment for being sworn a burgess, James Ashcroft, the mason, had only to pay forty shillings, whilst Richard Marand or Macand had to pay ten pounds for the same privileges can scarcely be imagined. They were both most unlikely to become burdensome to the town. Ashcroft, of course, was a naturalised Wiganer, whilst the other hailed from Warrington at the time of his application, and this is undoubtedly the reason of the difference, although it is probable that the great Common Council wished to discourage making burgesses of bachelors:—

To the Woff the Maior, Aldermen, Common Concill, and Burgesses at the Leette assembled.

The humble petition of Thomas Crouchley and Lawrence Taylor,

Humbly sheweth,—That whereas your petrs for severall years Last past have gone thorrow the Streets to call on people in a morning during the winter time. And also sheweth that your peticoners are Laborious men, and able and willing to serve this Corporation, as formerly they have done, in calleing on people of the Towne as aforesaid.

Therefore your peticoners humbly pray that your Worpps. will be pleased to admitt them to go thorrow the Towne as formerly they have done. And your peticoners, as in duety bound, will ever pray.

The answer given by the jury to the petitioners' prayer was:-

Wee allow this petion, and order syd pet^{ra} to begin on Monday next, and continue till syd 14th of ffebruary.

The next petition of the same date is as follows:-

To the Word, the Maior, Aldermen, and Common Council att this time assembled.

The humble petition of James Ashcroft, Mason,

Sheweth,—That whereas your petitioner for the space of seaven years Last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of a Mason, and hath demeaned himself well therein, and also sheweth that your petitioner for the space of ffoure years last past hath served as Journeyman to the said trade of a Mason, and hath maryed a wife in this town, and hath lived in it ever since for the space of ffoure years last past, and hath beheaved himselfe honestly within this said towne. And hath a legall settlement within this Corporation. And as he, your petitioner, is informed, cannot be removed out of the Corporation lawfully. And further sheweth that your petitioner was fined at the last Leet by the Jury then sworne.

Therefore he humbly prayeth the said fine may be remitted, and your petitioner sworne a freeman of this Corporation, paying some small sum of money as your Worpp. in your discretion shall thinke fitt. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

The order of the Court was :-

Wee order him to bee sworne a freeman, paying flourty shillings, and his ffine remitted.

Wee order Jonathan Standish to have his ffine remitted him.

JOHN LOW, Juryman.

The next petition was:--

To the Worpp^{fl} the Major, Aldermen, and Common Council att this time assembled.

The humble petition of Richard Marand (Macand?) of Warrington, Cutler,

Sheweth,—Whereas your petitioner for the space of four years last past hath served as an apprentice to the said trade of Cutler hath worked for himselfe, and being a single man, and not likely to become chargeable to the Towne. And desirous to serve the same according to his power.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays your Worshipps to admitte him a freeman of this Burrough, paying such reasonable sume as your Worshipps shall thinke fitt. And your petr. will ever pray.

The decision of the jury was:-

Wee order the petr. to bee sworne a freeman forthwith, paying the sume of ten pounds before he bee sworne.

Dr. John Leland, who was born in Wigan 13th October, 1691, was a man of great ability and extensive learning, and so tenacious was his memory, and so extensively had he read, that he was commonly called "The Walking Library." His memory and intellect formed a most peculiar gift. Whilst yet a lad, in his sixth year, his parents were so pecuniarily embarrassed in Wigan as to have to give all they had to their creditors and remove to Dublin in search of work, where, although the parents were successful, young Leland unfortunately had a virulent attack of small pox, which loathsome disease, if it makes not a victim of its subject, almost invariably deprives it of some faculty or limb, and it was the misfortune of Leland to be totally deprived of intellect and memory. He forgot even the letters he had been taught, and was literally unconscious of his unhappy existence. He remained so for a year, after which he not only recovered his faculties, but was found to possess such a retentive memory that he remembered everything he afterwards read only once, although he never recalled anything of his previous existence. He was educated for the dissenting church, distinguished himself in literature, received the well-earned and honourable degree of D.D. from Aberdeen University, lived a useful life, and died at the age of 75 on the 16th January, 1766.

Perhaps no man was better known in Wigan at this period than Dr. Stratford, the rector, who was also bishop of Chester. His closely-shaven face, open countenance full of sympathetic expressions, marked him as a sincere Christian, who went about continually doing good. His complacent smiles, like the rays of the sun, were welcomed at every poor man's door. When people saw him in the streets there was no running away, skulking round corners, nor anxiety to avoid him, but, on the contrary, all, like loving children, sought his smiles and condolences as if he were indeed their affectionate father. He was rector of Wigan, and not rector of the Parish Church only. Yet he lived in days of persecution, when it was no easy matter to win the confidence, esteem, and affection of all sects. Then it was the fashion to trample upon small dissenters, but the rector, like his Lord and Master, would not believe the dissenters were sinners above all others, but gave them credit for having reasoning powers and consciences of their own, and he refused to persecute them, although he had the power, and would certainly have received honours of men for acts of zealous To him drunkenness was far more abhorrent than dissent. He knew the subtleties and deceits of life, as well as the unreasonableness of sectarian bigots, and, although a bishop, he walked humbly before God in the sight of his fellow-men. He could, and did, adapt his language to any society: to the poor and uneducated he talked freely and convincingly in the most homely words, and to those of a superior education he conversed with ease and versatility, being at all times exemplary in his actions, sincere and devout in his language. He was beloved both by his clergy and people, yet, although he never used threat, intimidation, or force, as he might lawfully have done, against dissenters, he was strictly orthodox in his views—a strong believer in Episcopacy and a firm supporter of the English Church.

The plainness of the bishop's style, and his zeal for men's welfare, may best be known from the following letter, written in November, 1699, to a country squire. The original letter is in the possession of the Rev. J. Clowes, Broughton:—

Your request was easily granted, for I am myself inclined to give the best encouragement I can to the poor curates as long as they continue diligently in the discharge of their duty. But I have now, sir, a request to make to you, which I heartily pray you may as readily grant me—and this is, that you will for the future abandon and abhor the sottish vice of drunkenness, which (if common fame be not a great liar) you are much addicted to. I beseech you, sir, frequently and seriously to consider the many dismal fruits and consequences of this sin. Even in this world how destructive it is to all your most valuable concerns and interests; how it blasts your reputation, destroys your health, and will, if continued, bring you to a speedy and untimely death, and, which is infinitely more dreadful, will exclude you from the kingdom of Heaven, and expose you to that everlasting fire where you will not be able to obtain so much as one drop of drink to cool your tongue. I have not leisure to proceed in this argument, nor is it needful that I should, because you yourself can enlarge upon it without my assistance. I assure you, sir, this advice now given you proceeds from sincere love and my earnest desire to promote your happiness, both in this world and the next, and I hope you will be pleased so to accept it from, sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

A more exemplary or conscientious man than Dr. Stratford never walked on the streets of Wigan. He felt that a great spiritual charge had been committed to his trust, and he was sincerely anxious to do his duty to God and man. The desire he had for the moral welfare of his diocese, and for the good of his clergy, may best be gathered from the following letter of his to the Archbishop of York, proposing to make a visitation:—

To ye Archbishop of York.

May it please yr. Grace,

I thankfully acknowledge yr. Condescention in returning an Answer to my last Letter. I humbly crave leave to trouble yr Grace but this once more. Whether yr Grace intends a metropolitical visitation this year, I know not; I fear you are not in so good a state of health (wch I heartily pray for) as to visit in yr own person, my humble request therefore to yr Grace is, yt you will be pleas'd to give me leave to visit this year. That I may not seem impertinent in this Request, I humbly offer to yr Grace's consideration, yt for thirteen years last past (as my Chancellor tells me), no visitation has been made by any bishop of this diocese; that by reason of this long neglect many things are scandalously amisse, and very much need correction; yt I have endeavour'd to gett ye best information I can of what is amisse, and if yr grace permitt me to visit I shall by God's assistance endeavour to ye utmost of my power to reform and correct all disorders.

I hope yr Grace's Officers will have no just reason to complain, because their fees will only be deferr'd till ye next year, weh they can't think hard if they consider, how much money they have had in six months space out of this Diocese (as appears by ye Paper enclos'd, subscrib'd by my Chancellor). However I shall humbly acquiesce in yr Grace's judgement & pleasure & if you judge it not fitt to give me this Liberty, it will be a satisfaction to my own mind, yt I have discharg'd my duty in requesting it.

I formerly signified to yr. Grace, yt your Mandate for ye Election of Proctors for ye Convocation came too late to my hands (I being then attending upon ye Parliament) yt I could not send a Commission to Richmond before ye time appointed for ye Election was pass'd; if therefore yr Grace will be pleased to issue forth another mandate for ye choice of a Person to serve for ye Archdescoury of Richmond, I will take care to see it executed in due time. I earnestly beg your Grace's blessing. I am sincerely

Yr Grace's humble & obedient Servt.

Chester Jan. 19. 1690.

N. CESTRIENS.

It requires either a good deal of honest zeal or an unlimited amount of vain-glorious hypocrisy to bring parishioners four or five miles in cold and stormy weather to hear a conventional sermon. There are many places in England, Scotland, and Ircland where this is done at the present day; but about this period the majority of parishes had their boundaries far away from the church. The district of Wigan was exceptionally well supplied, for Blackrod, Standish, and Upholland Priory were all comparatively near; but the Hindley people had no place of worship nearer than the mother church of Wigan, and it is not to be wondered at that great efforts were made by them to get a sacred edifice of their own. Judging from the wills and indentures still extant, the more prosperous tradesmen of Hindley must have been tailors, tanners, and weavers. The inhabitants, Conformists and Nonconformists, with their voluntary contributions, in 1641, erected a chapel, just after the passing of the Act of Uniformity, and 21 years after the founding of Hindley Grammar School. The inhabitants generally took the advice of the Wigan clergy about the choice of their pastor, and especially is it mentioned that they consulted Mr. Roe, the curate of the Bishop of Chester as well as Rector of Wigan, afterwards Doctor of Divinity and Warden of Manchester. In 1698 they were in great trouble, as they were not unanimous whether to have a conforming or nonconforming clergyman. The Commissioners who tried this ecclesiastical dispute met at the Town Hall at Wigan. The very interesting evidence of John Prescott, of Hindley, should be perused by the reader. It is given in the "Documents relating to the Township of Hindley," by John Leyland, Esq.

The bishop requested Mr. Bradshaw to read prayers, according to the usage of the Church of England, in Hindley Chapel, but Mr. Bradshaw refused, and so was turned out by the bishop, and for some time after Hindley had no minister. Mr. Dennis was afterwards ordained by the bishop and presented to the living there.

The enforcement of claims to earthly rights is perfectly compatible with Christian sincerity and conduct, and of this Bishop Stratford was an excellent example. Although altogether opposed to the doctrines of Dissent, he had no ill-feeling towards individual Dissenters, and, as a bishop of the Church of England, he felt it to be incumbent upon him, as a representative of Episcopacy in his diocese, to defend the Church against the encroachments of Dissenting bodies, whose

advancements he resolutely opposed, whilst sternly refusing to budge from his own standpoint or yield an inch of the Church's property. The following letters of his are given as illustrative of such conduct:—

To Mr. Goldsmith.

Honoured Sir,—I was a little surprised when I heard that Wettenhall Chapel was, by the order of the Justices of the Quarter Sessions of Nantwich, registered for a meeting place of Dissenters. I think they have invaded not only the Vicar of Over's rights, but mine too, it being a chapel of ease (as I am informed) belonging to the Church of Over, and under my jurisdiction. I entreat the favour of you to let me know, by a line or two directed to me at Wigan, upon what grounds the Justices proceeded, and what were the reasons and motives that induced them thereto. I heartily thank you and your lady (to whom and to your mother I present my humble service) for my very kind entertainment at Nantwich, and for your good company at Chester.

I am, sir, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 18, 1692.

To Mr. Sherrard.

Good Sir,—This morning I received your letter, with a certificate enclosed. The certificate was, I suppose, tendered to the Justices at the Quarter Sessions at Nantwich to procure their votes for the registering of Wettenhall Chapel for a meeting place for Dissenters. I am glad to find that Mr. Wilbraham, of Darfold, did not give his consent, and I wish I was as well assured that Sir Thomas Wilbraham did not. I a little wonder that the Justices should take upon them to dispose those places to Dissenters which were never intended by the Act of Indulgence, and which by the law of the land belongeth to other sons.

Wettenhall Chapel (as I am informed) is an ancient consecrated place, and a member of the Church of Over. If any of the members should have the impudence to certify your Parish Church of Tarporley for a meeting place, I think the Justices might with as much justice and reason order it to be registered for that use. And (as I am told) some of them confidently say that they expect ere long to be possessed of our churches. I have already sent out a citation for Mr. Barnett. I shall, when opportunity serves, take advice upon the case. I pray present my humble service and thanks to Mr. Wilbraham, and you may (if you please) communicate this letter to him. I beg the assistance of your prayers for, sir, your affectionate brother,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 22, 1692.

To Mr. Peter Wilbraham.

Honoured Sir,—Though I am already assured, by the information I have received from others, that you did not give your consent that Wettenhall Chapel should be set apart for a meeting place for Dissenters; yet because those who have usurped that chapel falsely affirm you did, and because it was recorded at the Quarter Sessions at Nantwich, upon a pretended certificate, that you and Sir Thomas Wilbraham had given your consent, I therefore entreat the favour of you that you will be pleased to signify to me in a line under your own hand that you did not consent to it. Considering it is a business in which not only my own right, but that of the Church is concerned, you will, I doubt not, excuse this trouble from, sir, your faithful and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, July 30th, 1692.

To Mr. Lee, of Darnhall.

Sir,—I heartily wish you had acquainted me with your design upon Wettenhall Chapel before you had proceeded to get it certified and recorded, since if you had done so I question not but I should have offered such matters to your consideration as would have diverted you from it. I cannot think (had you duly considered it) you would have attempted a thing which is likely to prove of such mischievous consequence to that national Church of which you own yourself to be a member, there

being no parish church in the nation (nor cathedral neither) which may not be usurped by the same methods which have been used for the obtaining this chapel, which is indeed no more than what some Dissenters expect, who (if I am truly informed) have not spared to say that they hope ere long to be possessed not only of our chapels, but of our churches too. I am persuaded that which chiefly moved you to this enterprise was the want of constant preaching in that chapel. This grievance I should have eased you of by providing for the future such a supply as should have given satisfaction to you and to all persons who are lovers of peace and truth (though the want of this could warrant no man to invade another man's rights). Could I, sir, obtain but an hour's discourse with you, I hope an end might be put to this dispute; but if not, you cannot justly blame me though I use such legal means as I think myself in conscience obliged to use for the vindicating the rights of our Church.

I am, sir, your faithful friend and humble servant,

N. CESTRIENS.

Wigan, August 11, 1692.

I entreat you return an answer by the bearer.

A great change, which was, perhaps, no improvement, was now made in the Parish Church. The ancient governing body of the borough had assumed greater dimensions and importance, and so wanted greater honours. A specially distinguished seat was wanted for the Mayor in the church, and it was proposed that, for this purpose, a gallery, to be afterwards called "The Mayor's Gallery," should be erected by a skilful artificer on the south side of the church. The seats in this gallery which were not occupied by the Mayor were to be sold or let to parishioners, and the proceeds to be given as salary to the organist. The necessary petition to obtain leave from Bishop Stratford to build this gallery was duly presented by the Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens. Leave was obtained, and the gallery built by the skilful artificer, Adam Cooper, in 1692.

It occupied "the space of one arch between the west end wall and the two first pillars in the middle aisle or nave of the church, whose front from north to south between the two pillars was in length nineteen feet and a half or thereabouts, and whose breadth or depth was the whole space reaching from the said front to the west end wall or window, and contained in it eleven seats in number, with a passage between them and the landing place at the head of the stairs leading up to it." When a dispute arose in 1847 as to the right of the Rector or others to remove this gallery, a committee was appointed, under the chairmanship of John Lord, mayor of the borough, to make enquiries. This committee found "that by a certain faculty or grant, dated the 13th day of March, 1709, the Lord Bishop of Chester for the time being granted and confirmed to the Rector (Edward Finch) of the Parish Church of Wigan that gallery."

Sometimes these seats were held at a yearly rental, and sometimes sold to families. One old indenture is still extant. It was drawn up on June 25th, 1729, "between William Parr, of Whitehaven, in the county of Cumberland, dyer, eldest son and heir of John Parr, late of Wigan, dyer, deceased, and Thomas Bannister,

William Parr sells for three pounds and ten shillings the of Wigan, linen weaver. The seal is a naked boy with Signed, William Parr. sixth seat, numbered 38. Motto: Sans eglat sans brvii. The delivery and sealing whip, carrying a lantern. witnessed by Thomas Royle, James Grayson, and Edward Roughsedge." Parr was bailiff of Wigan in 1718, and Thomas Parr bailiff in 1721. This was the sixth seat, but John Parr had also purchased the fifth seat, numbered 37, which was, no doubt, retained by the representatives of the family then resident in Wigan. Adam Cooper, the architect of the gallery, also disposed of the seats, and that by documents of a somewhat pompous nature. The following document, certifying to the sale and purchase of seats 37 and 38, is written on parchment:-

To all Xtian people to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas the Right Reverend ffather in God, Nicholas, Lord Bishopp of Chester and Rector of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster and Dyocesse of Chester, did, by his Letters Testimoniall, under his seale episcopall, dated att Chester aforesaid the twenty-flourth day of March last past, and in the third yeare of his Consecracon, Grant his full Lycence, leave, and authority to the Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens of Wigan aforesaid, or any three of them, to contract with and appoint any such skilful Artificer as they should approve of to erect and build a Loft or Gallery on the south side of the body of the Parish Church of Wigan aforesaid, with a convenient staircase to the same to the end convenient seates or pewes might be made therein, and disposed of to the use of the inhabitants and parishioners there, at the discretion of the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens. And whereas the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens did therefore contract with and appoint mee, Adam Cooper, of Wigan aforesaid, Architecte, to erect and build the said Loft or Gallery and Staircase, and to dispose of the seates or pewes therein att the rates and prices in the said contract and appointment, limitted and directed, which said Loft or Gallery and Staircase being now by me erected accordingly, and by the said Mayor, Recorder, Curate, and Churchwardens approved of. Now knowe yee, therefore, that I, the said Adam Cooper, for and in consideracon of the sume of Six pounds and Tenne shillings of lawfull money of England, to mee in hand paid before the sealeing and delivery of these presents by John Parr, of Wigan aforesaid, Dyer, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold, and disposed of (as much as in mee is), and by these presents doe bargain, sell, and dispose of, the ffith and sixth seates or pewes in the seacond halfe Arch of the said Loft or Gallery (vizt) 37 and 38, together with the use, benefit, and advantage of the said staircase, and all the rights, priviledges, and advantages thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining to the said John Parr, his heires and assigns, to have, hold, use, occupie, posesse, and enjoy the same, to the use of the said John Parr, his heires and assignes, ffor ever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto putt my hand and seale this second day of November, in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred ninety and twoe.

(Signed, on the parchment) (Signed, below pendant seal)

ADAM COOPER.
Jo Parr.

The seal is a griffin, bearing in its beak an olive branch. The deed is endorsed "Sealed, signed, and del'ved in the presence of us, Thos. Banckes, Robt. Finch (?), Ra. (?) Banckes, Edward Herle."

John Byrom, who was elected member for the borough on the death of Sir Richard Standish, belonged to a very old local family. In 1695 there were three candidates for the two Wigan seats, and the lowest on the poll, Thomas Rigby, Esq.,

petitioned against the return of Peter Shakerley, but, either fearing expense or further defeat, withdrew. At the next election of 1698 he tried again to gain the seat, but failed, and, feeling aggrieved by the odds of bribery, he petitioned against the return of both members, but unsuccessfully. He seems to have been determined to win a seat in Wigan, and he did so in 1701.

The history of a country proceeds from its social centre of royalty, for the history of a king is the history of the country. Its annals literally fluctuate with every political breeze, and yet are obedient to the great tidal laws of progression and retrogression. The great wars and political movements of civilisation may take centuries to pass over a country whose progress is, nevertheless, increased or delayed by every internal or external national commotion.

The great revolution which was finally consummated at the abdication of James II. was but the climax of that in active existence at the beginning of the Plantagenet Because neither barons nor common Britons would be slaves, at the great risk of losing their lives and liberties they rebelled, and compelled John to sign Magna Charta. The whole nation, under the guidance of Leicester, craving for right and liberty, forced Henry III. to grant a Constitutional Government. next reign (Edward I.) the people advanced their liberties and powers by literally purchasing the power of controlling taxation, and thereby gained the strongest hold over an otherwise absolute monarchy, and so were legally able to govern such of their kings as afterwards proved themselves unable to govern for themselves. though their power was strong, their conservative forbearance frequently tempted ambitious, tyrannical, and self-willed sovereigns to enforce illegal taxes or issue unjust laws until the might of the king was often arrayed against the right of the people, when, so stubborn were both parties, neither would willingly yield till one was forcibly made the victim of the other. The climax came with the arbitrary Stuarts, and the people gained their desire: thus the revolution was complete in its object, and protected liberty was attained. Thus the Constitution of England, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons, was irrevocably established peacefully, after centuries of struggling.

Like a frail barque on a stormy ocean, English freedom was often in peril, but at last brought into the constitutional haven. Yet it could not be expected that the whole nation would quietly agree with and accept the new state of affairs. There were such things as confiscations, gains, and losses to influence men's actions and principles. Those who had received honours and wealth at the hands of the abdicated king must support their king or lose their power. It must be a trying ordeal for men even of the highest principles to determine to cling to forlorn hope when their adherence is almost certain to cost power, possession, and title, which

they might retain by simply remaining inactive or neutral. In all revolutions there are turncoats, as well as men of principle who will yield to nothing but conviction, although it is accepted as right that the zealously adhering few should be forced to yield for the good of the many. In England William was opposed by many zealous Jacobites, and, urged to action by the obstinacy of similar opposing parties in Scotland and Ireland, he determined to put down all by the strong hand of the He had been invited to England with his troops; he had accepted the crown voluntarily offered by a grateful people, and now persons in high places were negotiating with the self-exiled king, to whom invitations to return and claim his own were sent, and favourable feelings towards him were fostered, while many had already taken up arms in his cause. Under such circumstances William must either have yielded in a craven manner or boldly determined to stem the rising and reactionary tide by force. He chose the latter, and offered rewards for the discovery of those inclined to show their discontent by action. When rich rewards are offered there are always many who are anxious to claim, and many even would be willing to betray their friends for the possession of the filthy representative of wealth, even at the price of perjuring their souls' happiness. It was so in the search for these Jacobites, local instances of which alone shall be mentioned here. Some of the best families in the neighbourhood of Wigan were suspected, apprehended, and tried, chiefly at the instance of one Lunt by name. This Lunt, who persecuted his superiors, held firmly to his only invariable and despicable principle that it was right to enrich himself by every method which his nefarious mind suggested. lives of honourable men were nothing to him compared with his corruptible gain. He had been born poor, but had tasted the licentious pleasures of wealth, for which he had acquired an insatiable greed. As a young man he was a common labourer, at a shilling a day, but afterwards rose to the rank of coachman, and then, as the result of his unprincipled jobbery, he had a footman of his own, and lived at the He hired himself as a decoy or spy to a government rate of a thousand a year. that surely deserves no honourable mention for such work. This lying villain trumped up information, amongst others, against Lord Mollineux, Sir William Gerard, Sir Rowland Stanley, Bart., Sir Thomas Clifton, Bart., Bartholomew Walmesley, William Dicconson, Philip Langton, Esq., and William Blundell, Jun., Gent., Mr. Leigh Bankes, Mr. Legh, of Lyme, and three sons of Mrs. Culcheth, a local Popish lady.

An Englishman's house is his castle, but the results of the plot of 1694 proved that it was no protection to him. The royalist detectives were pilferers and robbers. In Wigan and its neighbourhood they broke into houses of loyal subjects who were often suspected simply because they were rich. Diamonds, jewels, articles of virtu, money were carried away by pretentious and indignant thieves protected by royal

warrants of special privilege, not indeed to rob, although sack the houses they did. The origin of this despicably-managed investigation was the Lancaster plot, which was concocted at Standish Hall for replacing the Stuarts on the throne. It was the ancient seat of the Jacobite and Catholic family of Standish.

It is true the accused were not innocent, but Lunt's evidence was in great part trumped up. The Catholics in the neighbourhood of Wigan secretly determined to support James. The plot was concocted at Standish, and preparations to help the exiled king were quietly effected. Soldiers were raised from such Irish labourers in London as were discontented with England, who enlisted because they had failed to find work. Accoutrements and ammunition were stored in many Catholic houses. Lord Delamere, however, counteracted the efforts of these enthusiastic Jacobites by raising 40,000 soldiers. For his timely service to the crown he was elevated to the peerage, with the title of Lord Warrington.

The family of Blundell came over with the Conqueror. As a Papist, the accused William was excluded from many of the advantages of education open to other Englishmen of his station, yet he was a distinguished scholar and soldier. He was saved from sharing in the licentious habits of young gentlemen of his time by marrying an amiable lady He was rendered a cripple for life at the when he was only fifteen years of age. attack on Lancaster (1642), under Lord Derby, whose lady, in her celebrated heroic defence of Lathom House, he assisted. He adhered to Prince Charles and lost his estates, which he re-purchased, and now, in the reign of William, when he is 75 years old, at the instigation of the unprincipled vagabond, Lunt, the Dutch troops enter his house by force at half-past five in the morning, with the intention of carrying him off as their prisoner. The son gave himself up in his stead, and thus old Mr. Blundell was tried by proxy, which was considered quite a legitimate thing by the authorities of the time.

These gentlemen were first imprisoned in London and carried to Manchester for trial, in which town public excitement had been fomented to a great degree. Both the characters of the accusers and the dangers of the accused were known. Lunt swore that he knew each of the prisoners, but on being asked to point out specially-named ones he was always wrong, proving thereby he knew not one from the other. His examination was but a series of perjuries, and the whole trials seemed ridiculous. When the prisoners were allowed to speak for themselves, Stanley finished by saying, "We shall show your lordships and the gentlemen of the jury that this is a bloody conspiracy against our lives for the sake of our estates, carried on by indigent and necessitous villains." The witnesses for the defence were called, one of whom alone, in one sentence, showed that Lunt should have stood at the bar. Lunt had said to him, "What I now do is for King James's service, for I am now more capable of

serving him than ever I was in my life, for I can command the Dutch troops now at. Wigan, and if King James appears, they shall all stand for him." Lord Macaulay briefly says, "The prisoners at the bar were instantly acquitted; those who had not been tried were set at liberty; the witnesses for the prosecution were pelted out of Manchester; the clerk of the crown narrowly escaped with life; and the judges took their departure amidst hisses and execration."—(Abbott's Journal.)

The town of Wigan in 1695 stands before us like a photograph, so clearly is it depicted by Kuerden. The names of the families and the very spots on which their houses were built are accurately given. The appearance of the buildings was pleasing to the eye, being quite as good, and sometimes superior, to the average good houses of those times. Superiority and inferiority can only go by comparison. A man who travels all over the country, and literally sees everything, cannot praise everything, for if everything is alike excellent in his eyes, then his judgment is worth nothing. There were towns, houses, and scenery which Kuerden admired, and others which he condemned. The great argument in favour of the justice of his judgment is that he made it, not from any hope of pecuniary gain, but from admiration, and genuine admiration or love has no pecuniary or prejudiced value. The majority of the buildings that he noticed in Wigan were fair, which, according to him, was a highly favourable opinion, but others in the town were actually sumptuous. He names the old aldermen and gives their addresses, and notes the striking appearance of their houses in Wallgate and Standishgate. The old stone bridge at the end of Millgate across the Douglas, which joined Scholes, or the scale-like street, which one had to scale or climb as a ladder, to Wigan, and the entrance of the post road from Winwick, he clearly depicts. The bridge had been built in the reign of Edward, and, like a primitive bridge in a garrison town, had been the scene of many a dreadful and deadly strife. Many of the old aldermen whom he names had taken an active interest in the wars of Wigan, and watched with keen eyes the history of events during the Commonwealth and the They had all been young men at the time of the battle of Wigan Restoration. Lane, and most of them had seen the great Cromwell when in the town, and had interesting tales to tell of their "malignant fathers" and of the stubborn siege of Lathom House, as well as the mournful appearance of the town on the evening of August 16th, 1657, when the body of the martyred Lord Derby rested in Wigan after the execution in Bolton. There were few, if any of them, who had not lost near and dear friends in those stirring times, but in the comparatively quiet interval the trade of the town had prospered. One can almost see the Millgate of those Immediately on passing the bridge was the toll-bar, where the Rector's tolls were collected on market days, and the fixed charges made for the use of the road for horses and cattle. On the left hand side were the two newly-erected spacious

houses of Bailiff Hayes, which one cannot recal without thinking of the prosperous calling of bailiff and the hazardous times of his myrmidons. One house is occupied by the bailiff himself and the other by the more aged Alderman Robert Forth, who presented to the Grammar School the well-carved oaken desk, still preserved there in good condition, although still further carved or disfigured by many a miscreant youth who has tried the metal of his knife on the oak of old England. Just outside the toll was "the fair-built house lately styled a college, with officers of learning belonging to it, but since violently pulled down, and the ruins thereof still remaining, but neither Romanist master nor scholars are left." hand side of the town were stately houses, inhabited by the oppidan gentry. first on the opposite side to, but higher up than, Bailiff Heyes was the excellent house of Alderman Leatherbarrow (mayor in 1678), and then the aged Alderman Ford, and next to that the physician of the town, Dr. Ratclif. These were the houses of the important dignitaries of the town in that street, which was, although within the demolished walls, the suburbs of the borough. Each of these houses had a spacious garden attached. Passing the Market Place on the left, at an angle of about 100 degrees, the next aristocratic street, Standishgate, was entered, and the first house that was there specially attractive was that of Justice Entwisel, a name still locally common, though differently spelt. His house and gardens were on the left, and opposite it, although close to the much-frequented Wheatsheaf Tavern of Mr. Pennington, was the comely and spacious house of the respected Mr. Alderman Baldwin, a name still common in Wigan. On the same side were several other houses of the city burgesses, including those of Alderman Jolley, Banks, and Lawyer Morts, who must have been the great friend of the poor to whom he gave advice gratis, and gave the closes called the "Throstle's Nest" or Baron's fields as an endowment of a charity to pay for the binding of apprentices, the sous of the poor of Wigan, since appropriated, with other charities, for the education of promising sons of the poor inhabitants. Then came the house of Colonel Daniels, a veteran soldier of the Commonwealth period, then those of Bailiffs Master and Legh and then Alderman Joliffe's, and last of all, within the destroyed walls, and on the lower hill, the newly-built and most spacious house of Alderman Baldwin, who then resided at the top of Standishgate, next the Market Place. On the rising ground, and on the same right hand side, was the Hall of Orrell, occupied by Alderman Heile, and opposite the house of Mrs. Sumner, in which lived Mr. Langton of Low, Lord of Hindley. The above-named Alderman Baldwin, who seems to have been a prosperous burgess, devised to his son and heirs the messuage in Standishgate, with the close at the back, called "Barker's Croft," and a close in Wigan called the "Pilly Toft," charging the said premises with an annuity of £3 with which to bind one poor boy

apprentice. The hall-manor now standing in Bishopsgate Street was the property of Alderman Markland, who devised certain lands in Broughton-in-Furness, called Angerton Marsh, for the use of the poor in Wigan. These, about 1706, were sold for £25, in consideration of the receipt of which sum one Ralph Banks, whose house was the third from the Wheat Sheaf in Standishgate, granted 20s. a year for the use and behoof of the poor of Wigan. In 1839 it was reported that no payment had been made from that charity for years.

The following description of Wigan by Kuerden about 1695 is printed as an original document in the first volume of Local Gleanings. In describing the post road from Warrington to Wigan, Kuerden proceeds: "Thro' a more open coach-way, passing on upon the right, leave the Brin Gate, a private way leading to the antient Hall of Brin, and upon the left another road by Garswood to the Hall of Par (Parr), a seat belonging to the Byroms, and to St. Ellen's Chapel. Having left these two sidling roads, you pass by a fair gate, with round balls, leading to the Hall of Hawkley, very near the road, which belongeth to the antient family of the Molineuxs, of Hawkley. Then leaving, we thought a quarry, you pass over a place called Goose Green, leaving on the right two fair brick houses, then over a bridge or through a ford or rivulet called Smithy Brook, from an adjacent smithy. Having pass'd the brook you presently leave on the left another sidling road leading towards Holland, and on the right a fair built house call'd Lea Hall. Then passing northward half a mile you leave on the left the transverse public road from Ormskirk to Wigan, and, turning eastward, pass over the Dugles Water, at a fair stone bridge of 2 arches, call'd Adam Bridge, half a mile from Wigan; then over a flat bridge, call'd Pool Bridge, from a pool of water close by it. After this you enter into Wigan, and, passing the Wallgate Bars, you go by the Town Hall, under which is a meal-house, and leave on your right a fair built house belonging to Mr. Tatles, and on the left the church, and a street called Hallgate, at the end whereof stands a sumptuous building called The Parsonage, and beyond the further end of that street another fair hall, an antient seat belonging to the Marklands, antient aldermen of this burrough. Having passed the Market Place on the right is the Millgate, where comes in the other road from Winquic to Wigan."

In describing the post road from Wigan to Preston, Dr. Kuerden says:—"Having passed the Standish Gate Bars about a quarter of a mile, a little below a place called Mab Cross, on the right hand you pass a lane called Wild Lane End, leading towards Haigh Park. Having passed the Monument erected by Captain Alex. Rigby, sometime High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mayor and Alderman of Wigan, and Governor of Chester Castle, in memory of his colonel, Sir Thomas Tyldesley, who was there

slain, with Lord Witherington and many others, by Colonel L. (Lilburne's) regiment of horse. Having passed Standish you come to the Quakers," &c., &c.

In his description of the other parallel road from Winquic to Wigan, Dr. Kuerden remarks :- "Passing Clivedon Brook into the liberties of Wigan, half a mile from the town, you next enter the street call'd Scoles, from Scala, Scale, and after this the Miln Gate, over the Dugles, by a bridge of 2 arches. This part of Wigan is said to be within Makerfield, and a rent is yearly paid for respiting their appearance at the Barons' Court at Newton. Passing the Miln Bridge on the left-hand are two spacious new-built houses, one belonging to Bailiff Heyes, and the other to the late Alderman Rob. Forth, and without the bars a fair built house, lately styled a College, with officers of learning belonging to it, but since violently put down and the ruins thereof yet remaining, but neither Romanist master nor scholars are left. the Miln Gate Street thro' the bars are divers stately houses on the right, the first belonging to Alderman Leatherbarrow, the 2d to Alderman Ford, the 3d to Dr. Ratcliff. Passing into the Standish Gate is a fair house, built by Mr. Case, and having entered Standish Gate on the left-hand a sumptuous house belonging to the late Justice Entwisel, and over against it a spacious and neat-built house by Mr. Alderman Baldwin. On the right-hand the Wheat Sheaf, belonging to Mr. Pennington; Mr. Alderman Jolley's, Alderm. Banks, Lawyer Mort's, a most learned and conscientious peacemaker of law differences without a fee taking; Colonel Daniels', and on the right-hand Mr. Bailiff Marten's, Mr. Bailiff Legh's, Mr. Alderman Joliffe's, new and fair built houses; but below the channel on the right is a most spacious house, new built by the aforesd. Alderman Baldwin. And above the channel the Hall of Orrul, now belonging to Mr. Alderman Herle; and on the left Mrs. Turner's, the present residence of Mr. Langton, of Low, lord of Hindley. In this town are four open streets, a large Market Place, with the old Town Hall, the common prison and butchers' shops under it. A spacious church, well adorn'd with monuments, and is remarkable for the steeple standing near the west end, which was occasioned by the re-edifying of the church, which was drawn back more westerly, and the old steeple left standing where it did."

The poor of Wigan of the present day consider the bailiffs their sworn focs, and treat them accordingly, but Wiganers of the seventeenth century held the same class of men in the deepest detestation. The gatewaiters of the town seemed to them to be mean spies, who had the power of making from door to door visitations, whereby they could pry into the very privacies of houses, which is at all times, and under any circumstances, objectionable to English tastes. Cases of assault and battery were not unusual, but these men were the servants of the town, and had to be protected, although sometimes their prerogatives as "limbs of the law" made

them transgressors on private rights. The greatest enemies of the householder, robbers, and spies always have been the women, and to be attacked by the loose tongues of lower class women and brickbats very few men have the hardihood to bear. So determined were the magistrates to protect these servants that it was made an offence at common law to apply opprobrious epithets to them. Before a jury in 1697 Margery Worsley and her two daughters and Martha Jackson were found guilty of assaulting Thomas Bond, a gatewaiter, and of applying to him the foul and opprobrious names of runagate and rogue, for which offence Margery and her two daughters were duly fined twelve pence apiece. By the same jury Elizabeth Holland was fined one shilling and eightpence for calling the gatewaiter, Adam Catterall, base rogue and theife. It appears from the same records that the gatewaiter, Nathaniell Halliwell, was assaulted by Raphe Bancks, who denied the charge, and accused the gatewaiter of assaulting him. Both cases were tried, and each, being in his turn found guilty, was fined one shilling and eightpence (Jury Trials for 1697). The following petition in 1685 was presented to the Common Council by a gatewaiter :-

To the Worll. the Major, Aldermen, and Comon Council now att this time assembled.

The humble peticon of James Wood, covilet weaver,

Sheweth,—That whereas your pet. was fined in Ten shillings for the neglect of his your pet. office of a Gatewaiter or Leavelooker, and for that the said fine estreated to six shillings and eight pence, and distress made and taken for the said ffine, to your peticioner's great damage and Loss. And also sheweth that your peticioner was ffined in xxs. att Michs. Leet last past. And which was estreated to thirteen and ffourpence, to your pet. Losse.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays that the said distress may be restored and the said ffines remitted, and your petr. will ever pray.

The Grand Jury List of the Court Leet held in August, 1697, consists of 102 names. Many of these were jurymen in several cases. Previous to the prosecutions proper the conduct of the gatewaiters themselves was taken into consideration, and the following is a copy of the hitherto unpublished tabulated account of the scrutiny:—

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GATEWAITERS.
                                   Wee fine them for a default and neglect of their office in 3s. 4d.
Market Street { Adam Catterall Cuthbert ffinch
                                        apiece.
                John Rothwell
Halgate
                                   Rothwell fined in 2s. Stet.
               Thomas Barrow
               James Baron
Roger Taylor
                                   Fined in 3s. 4d. apeice. Stet.
Walgate
                Wm. ffarbrother
Standishgate
                Hugh fforth
                Robert Moss
                                   Fined in 2s. apiece.
Millgate
                                   Stet.
                Thomas Taylor
                                    Wee fine them for a default and neglect of theire office in 3s. 4d.
               Gilbert Wood
Scoles
                                        apiece. Stet.
                James ffarbrother
Woodhouses
                Raph Waite
                                    Fined in 2s. Stet.
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The cases tried before this Court have not hitherto been published, and are, therefore, given here in full. The book that contains them is an interesting historical heirloom, and the records of the trials show how strong was the protective spirit in Wigan. Particulars in each case are followed by the verdict or award of the Jury.

PRECEDED BY LIST OF JURY, &c. Qui Dicunt.

Wm. ffarbrother, Hugh fforth, Gatewaiters. Mct. ad. 20s. Stet ordr.

And that Daniell Swifte, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner, contr. et. We fine him in fortye shillings, and order him to remove forthwith, upon paine of fortye shillings p. mounth soe long as he doth continue.

Mct. ad. 20s. Stet ordr. And that Anne Baldwine, widow, for harbouring of the said Daniell Swifte, contr. et. Wee fine her, ye sd. Anne Baldwine, in forty shillings, and forty shillings p. mounth soe long as she doth soe harbour ye sd. Dan. Swift.

Mct. ad. 20s. Stet ordr. And that Nathaniell Sale, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr.et.

Wee fine him in fortye shillings, and forty shillings p. mounth see long as he doth
con.

And that Thomas Worthington the elder, for harbouring the said Nathaniel Sale, a fforraigner, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 20s. Stet ordr. Wee fine him in fortye shillings, and fortye shillings p. mounth see long as hee doth continue to harbour ye sd. Nath. Sale.

And that Margery Scott, widow, for suffering one swyne to goe att large in the streete floure severall times, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 2s. Wee fine her in four shillings.

And that Gilbert Letherbarrow, for the like, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 2s. V

Wee fine him in floure shillings.

And that John Wilde, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr. et. Con.

And that Robert Worsley, for the like, contr. et.

Con.

And that Edward Hoile, Esq., for harbouring of the said Wilde and Worsley, florraigners, contr. et.

Con.

And that Elizabeth, the wife of James Roger, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr. et.

Mct. 20s.

Wee fine her in 40s., and 40s. p. month see long as she doth continue.

And that Henry Laithwaite, for harbouring of the said Elizabeth Roger, contr. et. Wee fine him 40s., and order him to remove the said Elizabeth Roger upon paine of 40s. p. month see long as he doth continue to harbour her.

Mct. 20s. Stet ordr.

Ja. Baron,

And that Thomas Tatlocke, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr. et.

Rog. Taylor, Gatewaiters.

Con.

And that Thomas Butler, for harbouring of the said Thomas Tatlock, contr. et.

And that Charles Whiteley . . . for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 20s. Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. month see long as he doth continue to inhabit in this towns.

Mct. ad. 20s. And that Ellin Wainwright, for the like, contr. et.

Stet ordr. Wee fine her in 40s., and order her to remove forthwith.

And that Elizabeth Marsden, widow, for harbouring of the said Ellin Wainwright, a fforraigner, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 20s.

Stet ordr.

We fine her in 40s., and 40s. per month see long as she doth continue to harbour

ye sd. Ellin Wainwright.

And that John Waterson, for suffering three swyne to goe att large in the streete floure severall times, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 6s. Wee fine him in 12s.

And that John Unsworth, for suffering one swyne to goe at large in the street floure severall times, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 2s. Wee fine him in four shillings.

Robert Mosse, Tho. Taylor, Gatewaiters. And that Richard ffezackerley, Ald. Reast, for harbouring of Elizabeth Callan, she being a fforraigner and with child, cont. et.

Wee order him to remove ye sd. Elizabeth Callan forthwith, upon pain of 40s, per month soe long as he doth harbour ye sd. Elizabeth Callan.

John Rothwell, Thos. Barrow, Gatewaiters. And that Robert Hollinshead, brazier, for not setting upp and placeing a gate and twoe gate stubbs in his close called the Weetacres, for want thereof are pr.juditiall to all his neighbours.

Wee order him to get a suffitiant gate and two stubs as formerly hath been betwixt and the tenth of June next upon pain of fourty shillings.

15th May, 1697. And that John Laithwaite, for suffering twoe swyne to goe att large in the streete one time, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 1s. Wee fine him in two shillings.

And that Margaret Leigh, widdow, for the like, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 1s. Wee fine her in two shillings.

And that Calvely Markeland, for not ditching his ditch betwixt the close called Myrie lean Meadows and the Myrie leane, haveing had notice to doe the same, contr. et.

Stet.

Wee order him to ditch ye sd. ditch betwixt and the eighteenth of this instant upon paine of thirteen shillings and fourpence.

Gilbert Wood, Ja. ffarbrother, Gatewaiters.

And that Edward Pemberton, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforaigner, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 20s. Stet ordr. Wee fine him in 40s., and order him to remove forthwith, upon paine of 40s. p. mounth see long as he doth con.

And that Gilbert Ashton, for harbouring of the said Edward Pemberton, a fforaigner, contr. et.

Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. mounth soe long as he doth continue to harbour ye sd. Edward Pemberton.

And that Richard Duckeworth, the younger, for inhabitting in this towne, being a fforraigner, contr. et.

Con.

Distory of Wigan.

And that Richard Duckeworth, the elder, for harbouring of the said Richard Duckeworth, the younger, a fforaigner, contr. et.

Con.

And that Thomas Wood, for suffering three swyne to goe at large in the street three severall times, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 4s. 6d. Wee fine him in 9s.

And that Jane ffarbrother, widow, for suffering twoe swyne to goe at large in the street two severall times, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 2s. Wee fine her in four shillings.

And that Raphe Langshawe, dyer, for suffering one swyne to goe att large in the street twoe severall times, contr. et.

And that James Langshawe the younger, for suffering one swine to goe at large in the street one time, contr. et. Quitt.

And that Alice Bancks the younger, for the like, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 6d. We fine her in one shilling.

And that Catherine Gloaver, widow, for suffering her yard to lye downe betwixt her and Thomas fford, contr. et.

Con

And that Thomas fiord Badder, for not dressing and cleanseing his house of office, the same being noysome to Catherine Gloaver, widow.

Mct. ad. 3s. 4d. Wee fine him in 6s. and 8d.

Adam Catterall, Nathaniell Halliwell, Gatewaiters. And that Margery, the wife of Robert Worsley, and her 2 daughters, and Martha Jackson, for foule and approbrious words given to Thomas Bond (vizt.), *Runagate*, *Rouge*, and for an assaulting the said Bond, contr. et.

Wee fine ye sd. Margery and her two daughters in twelvepence apeece.

And that Raphe Bancks, for an assault and affray on Nathaniell Halliwell, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 10d. Wee fine him in 1s. and 8d.

And that Nathaniel Halliwell, for the like on the said Raphe Bancks, contr. et.

Mct. ad. 10d. We fine him in 1s. and 8d.

And that Elizabeth, the wife of John Holland, for many ffoule and opprobrious words given to Adam Catterall (vidlet), base roque and theife, &c.

Stet. Wee fine her in 1 & 8d.

10th of Aprill, 1697. Adjourned untill this day ffornight.

Hugh fford, Wm. ffarbrother, Gatewaiters. And that Margaret and Mary Walthow, for inhabitting in this towns, being florraigners, contr. et.

Wee fine them in 40s., and 40s. p. mounth see long as they continue.

And that Richard Holme, for harbouring of the said Margarett and Mary Walthow, fforraigners, contr. et.

Wee fine him in 40s., and 40s. p. mounth see long as he harbours them.

And that Henry Laithwaite, for keeping of a grayhound, not being quallified, contr. et.

Stet. Wee fine him in 3s. & 4d.

And that Margaret ffoster, widdow, for the like, contr. et.

Stet. Wee fine her in 3s. 4d.

Stet. fine. And that James Young, for the like, contr. et.

Stet. ordr. Wee fine him in 3s. 4d., and for non-payment thereof to sitt in ye stocks att ye

Markett Cross 3 hours.

And that Raphe Bancks, for the like, contr. et.

Traverse. Wee fine him in 3s. 4d.

And that Richard Naylor, for keeping of a setting dogg, not being quallified,

contr. et.

Stet. Wee fine him in ten shillings.

Ten other cases go by default or the accused are discharged.

The following orders were made by the same Jury:-

Wee doe order the overseers of the high ways for the Woodhouses to make a good foot bridge, with a raile and sloops, over the brooke call'd Barneley Brooke, in the high lane neare unto Alderman Markland's house, before midsomer next; or if Alderman Markland doe cause the said bridge to be done, hee to have the charge thereof allowed him in his Leys for ye high ways untill hee shall be reinburst for the same.

And we doe likewise order ye occupiers of the great Trumpⁿ field to fix and repaire ye bridge lying betwixt ye sd. close and a close belonging to Mr. William Daniell, called the Page Field, before midsomer next, upon paine of 13s. 4d.

We doo order that ye late overseers of ye town's mill, Miln Forde and Miln flinch, doe upon Satturday, ye twenty-nynth instant May, att four of o'clock, in ye Town's Hall, make their accompts unto so many of this Jury as doe then and there appear, and pay in what money they have in their hands unto Mr. Gilbert florde, ye floreman, upon paine of £5.

Ordered that the present bailiffes doe pay unto Gerard Banck, Church Clark, out of their next Leys three pounds for tending the clock and ringing of Nyne* (p'vided yt hee grind all his malt at ye town's mill).

In the time of George I. there was drawn up, direct from the minutes of the Court Leet from 1640 to the tenth year of George I., a summary of the elections of burgesses and transactions of the Court. In itself the paucity of the members elected is sufficient to show the Conservative spirit that has down to modern times adhered to the town. The summary—hitherto unpublished—is as follows:—

Michaelmas Leet, held before James Mollineux, Maior, 3rd Octr., 1640, was adjourned from that time to the 8th of Octr., and from then to ye 22nd of the same October.

Att Easter Leet, held 8th May, 17th Carol. primi, six burgesses were elected, viz., John Harvey, Thomas Pattrick, James Astley, James Rigbye, Henry Mason, R. Legh (all dead since).

Att the same Leet, it being required of the Jury by the Mayor to elect four aldermen, it appears that four aldermen were then elected, viz., Mr. Alxr. fford, Lawrence Lord, James Scott, and Edward Lloyd.

Att Easter Leet, held 9th May, 1650, one burgess was elected, viz., James Banks (but since dead). Att Easter Leet, held 23rd Apr., 1652, eleven burgesses were elected (dead).

^{*} Eight has first been entered here and scratched out, and no doubt refers to the ringing of the Curfew Bell.—(D. S.)

Michaelmas Leet, held 6th Oct., 1655, was adjourned from that time untill Tuesday, the 23rd of that instant October.

Michaelmas Leet, held 4th Oct., 1656, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 23rd of that instant October.

Michaelmas Leet held 4th October, 1656, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 23rd of that instant October.

16th October, 1656, Peter Adlington, Esq., sworn an in-burgess by the mayor without election, only the approbation of the aldermen and burgesses as then stood.

Michaelmas Leet, held 3rd October, 1657, was adjourned from that time to Thursday, the 22nd of the same October; and at the same time a majority of the whole Jury did not appears upon the last case.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 10th Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 23rd of the

Easter Leet, held 20th April, 1661, was adjourned to the 8th May (. . . ?) and 4 aldermen were elected at this Leet, viz., Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Knight, Col. Wm. Daniel, Mr. Ralph Markland, and Mr. Matthew Markland; and 20 burgesses were also elected at the same time (but all dead).

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 1661, was adjourned from that time to Tuesday, the 21st of the same October.

Michaelmas Leet, held 4th October, 1662, was adjourned from that time to the 23rd of that instant, and thence to the 25th of that instant.

Easter Leet, held 25th April, 1663, 9 burgesses were re-elected, whereof there is only one living, viz., Mr. Adam Bancks (underlined and marked in margin, if living?); and amongst those elected was 2 who lived in Haigh, viz., one James Partington and one Thomas Turner, elected in-burgesses.

At Easter Leet, held 1st April, 1665, no majority of the Jury appeared upon the last call.

Mich. Leet, held 6th October, 1666, was adjourned from that time untill Monday, the 8th of the same October, at 8 o'clock, and from thence to the 25th of the same October.

Easter Leet, held 13th April, 1666, adjourned from that time to Saturday, the 20th of yt instant, and thence to the 8th of May then next.

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 1670, was adjourned from that time untill Monday, the 3rd of the same October, and thence to Saturday, ye 22nd of the same month.

Easter Leet, held 29th April, 23rd Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 13th of May then next.

Mich. Leet, held last of September, 23rd Carol. 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 21st of the same month, and thence to ye 28th of the same month, and thence to the 4th of November.

At a Session, held in 1671, John Baldwin was (upon his petition) elected and sworn a burgess, as also were Mr. Law. Anderton (dead).

Michaelmas Leet, held 5th October, 1672, was adjourned from that time to the 24th of the same month, and thence to the 26th of the same instant.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 26th Carol., 2di., adjourned from that time to the 22nd, and thence to the 26th of the same month.

At a Session or Meeting day, 19th December, 26th Carol., 2di., two burgesses were elected.

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 30th Carol., 2di., was adjourned from that time to the 21st, and thence to the 23rd of the same instant.

Att Easter Leet, held 6th April, 30th Carol., 2di., 14 burgesses were elected, of which there are only 3 living, viz., Mr. Browne (blank) and John Rowe.

Easter Leet, held 26th April, 31st Carol., 2di., was adjourned from that time to Thursday, then next come sevennight, thence to the 22nd of May, thence to the 14th of June.

Mich. Lest, held 4th October, 36th Carol., 2di., 1684. The Jury elected 14 burgesses, of which only 4 of them are now living, viz., William Baldwin, pewterer, James Leyland, tanner, William fford, and Thomas Locke; and also at the same time elected 3 aldermen (since dead). And also upon the petition of William Rollin the Jury elected him a burgess, paying ten pounds, remitting all other fines.

26th October, 1689, Sir Richard Standish and William Banks, Esq., elected aldermen (since dead). At Mich. Leet, 5th October, 10th William and Marie, the Jury fined Ralph Deane and (?) in 5 guineas apiece for not coming in to be sworn burgesses, being formerly elected, of which number 15 came in and were sworn, and of which 6 only are now living, viz., Robt. Hollinshead, Wm. Baldwin, pewterer, James Langshaw the elder, Wm. fford, and Wm. Banks.

Att Easter Leet, held 26th of Aprill, 1690, 27 burgesses were elected, whereof 8 only are now living, viz., John Sumner, Wm. fford, Mr. John Markland, Ra. Deane, dyer, James Leyland, Hum. Legh, Thomas Mollineux, and Ralph Baldwin. At the same time Peter Shackerley, Esq., was elected an alderman.

25th Ocr., 1690, Peter Shakerley, Esq., re-elected an alderman.

27th June, 1691.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd Oct., 1691, was adjourned to the 24th of Oct., thence to the 7th of Nov. then next, and from thence to that day sevennight.

At Easter Leet, held 2nd Aprill, 4th William and Mary, two aldermen were elected, viz., Mr. Gerard fford and Thomas fford (since dead), and the Court was adjourned thence to that day sevennight, viz., ye 9th, and thence to that day sevennight (viz., 16th), at which time twelve burgesses were elected, of which three only are living, viz., William Langshaw, junr., Richard Heyes, and Robert ffoster, and was adjourned from thence to the 7th of May then next, and thence till Saturday next before the ffeast of St. John Baptist.

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 4th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 8th of that instant, and thence to the Saturday after the ffaire (viz., 22nd), and thence to Tuesday the next following, at which time Thomas fford was elected alderman (dead).

Mich. Leet, held 30th September, 5th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 5th of November.

Easter Leet, held 22nd April, 5th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 29th of the same April, and from thence to that day ffortnight (viz., 13th of May), and thence to the 29th of that May.

Mich. Leet, 6th October, 6th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time till that day ffortnight (viz., 20th October), and from thence to that day sevennight (viz., 27th), and thence to the 31st, and thence till Saturday then next following.

Easter Leet, held 14th April, 6th William and Mary, was adjourned from that time to the 21st of Aprill, thence to the 5th of May next after.

Easter Leet, held 18th April, 8th William 3rd, was adjourned from that time to that day three weeks, and three aldermen were then elected, of which only one is living, viz., Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Bart.

Easter Leet, held 10th April, 9th William the 3rd, was adjourned from that time till that day ffortnight.

Mich. Leet, held 2nd October, 1697, was adjourned from that time to ye 23rd of October, and thence to the 6th of November following, when the Jury elected 3 aldermen, viz., Wm. Daniel, Esq., Wm. Gilbert fford, son of Thomas, and Mr. John Markland (the last only living).

Mich. Leet, held 1st October, 1698, was adjourned from that time and place to Wm. Smith's, thence to the Town Hall, thence to the 8th of October then instant, thence to the 22nd of the then instant, at which 26 burgesses were elected, of which only 11 are living, viz., John Bullock, Thos. Langahaw,

Ra. Ashton, James Banks, son of Catherine, James Hollingshead, Peter Green, George Mawdesley, Tho. Lythgoe, Peter Platt, Richard Barns, and James Layland.

At the same Court Mr. Anthony Hilton was elected a burgess upon payment of £8, and Mr. Gilbert fford and Mr. John Markland were now also elected aldermen.

Easter Leet, held 30th April, 10th Will. 3rd, was adjourned from yt time to the 21st of May then next, thence to the 18th of June, thence to the 12th of July, thence to the 6th of August, thence to ye 15th of August, thence to the 5th of September, thence to the 12th of September, thence to the 19th of September, thence to the 23rd of September.

Mich. Leet, held 30th September, Wm. 3rd, was adjourned from yt time till Monday, ye 2nd of October, from thence to Saturday fortnight, at which time 9 burgesses were elected, of which four only are living, viz., Thos. Legh, Christopher Brown, James Walton, and Gilbt. Longshaw, son of James.

Easter Leet, 6th April, 12th Wm. 3rd, was adjourned from that time till that day three weeks, viz., 27th of Aprill, and thence for 3 weeks longer.

At Mich. Leet, held 4th October, 13th Wm. 3rd, six burgesses were elected, of wch. only two are living, viz., Gilbert Hollingshead and Matthew Rosbottam.

Easter Leet, held 11th April, 1st Anne, adjourned from that time till Saturday then next after Michaelmas.

Mich. Leet, held 3rd October, 1st Anne, was adjourned from thence till Saturday then next, thence to that day fortnight.

Easter Leet, held 3rd April, 2nd Anne, was adjourned from that time till the 15th of May then next, when 14 burgesses were elected, of wch. only 8 are now living, viz., Wm. Robt. Holt, Robt. Wakefeild, Thomas Latham, son of John, James Lord, Thomas Leatherbarrow, son of James, Wm. Ralph Winstanley, and Hugh Platt. At Mich. Leet, 2nd October, 2nd Anne, his election was confirmed, and for clearing all doubts concerning it the same (?) were re-elected.

Att Easter Leet, held 23rd Aprill, 3rd Anne, the Court was adjourned from that time to the 6th of May then next, thence to the Saturday next after the ffair, thence to the 15th of June, thence to the 4th of July, thence to the 5th of August, at which time 14 burgesses were elected, of wch. only 8 are living, viz., Henry Fleetwood, Thomas Kearsley, George Winstanley, Mr. Edward Mondy, Ra. Green, son of Robert, Richard Leatherbarrow, son of James, Robt. Hollingshead, son of Robt., Hugh fforth, son of Alexr. 2 aldermen were also then elected, viz., Geo. Kenyon, Esq., Mr. Robt. Hollingshead (both living).

Easter Leet, held 30th March, 5th Anne, was adjourned from that time to the 13th of April.

Easter Leet, held 10th April, 7th Anne, 10 burgesses elected, of wch. only 7 are living, viz., James, son of Adam Banks, James Acton, James Browne, Robt. Hollingshead, son of John, Robert Locker, son of Thomas, Mr. Calvert, and Mr. Owen.

Mich. Leet, 2nd October, 7th Anne, 6 burgesses were elected, and are all living, viz., Mr. Wm. Hayhurst, Mr. Ra. Peters, Wm. Rogerson, Thomas Langshaw, son of James, John Nightingale, Wm. ffairbrother, son of Richard.

Easter Leet, held 30th Aprill, 8th Anne, 8 burgesses were elected, upon paying 3 guineas apiece, of which only 6 are living, viz., John Rigby, Thomas Mather, Thomas Serjeant, James Hodgkinson, Peter Winstanley, and Wm. Glazebrook.

Easter Leet, held 15th April, 9th Anne, 14 burgesses were elected, of which 7 only are living, viz., Tho. ffairclough, Richd. Monks, Roger Grimshaw, et Little Roger, John ffairclough, Thomas Rothwell, Wm. Leyland, son of James, and John Walmesley, junr.

Easter Leet, held 26th April, 11th Anne, was adjourned from that time to ye 10th May, thence till that day 3 weeks.

Mich. Leet, held 4th October, 11th Anne, 9 burgesses were elected, of which 6 only are living, viz., Jonathan Johnson, Ra., son of Adam Banks, L. Ashton, Mr. Richd. (MS. decayed), Wm., son of Thomas Langshaw, and John Carter.

Mich. Leet, held 2nd October, 1st George I., was adjourned from that time till the 22rd of that instant, when 3 burgesses were elected, viz., James Wood, weaver in Millgate, William Higham, and John Leyland, haberdasher (all living).

Mich. Leet, held 5th October, 4th George I., one burgess was elected, viz., Mr. James Tempest, now living, and 2 aldermen, one being alive viz., Mr. James Browne.

Easter Leet, held 4th April, 5th George I., was adjourned from that time till that day three weeks. Att Easter Leet, held 23rd April, 6th George I., upon the resignation of Mr. Shackerley, one alderman was unanimously elected, viz., Roger Bradshaigh, Esq.; and 6 burgesses were then also elected, viz., Christopher Baldwin, Thomas Parr, Mr. John Richardson, Richard, son of William ffairbrother, Richard Hoolon, and James Ascroft.

At Easter Leet, held 15th April, 7th Geo., 5 burgesses were elected, of wch. 3 are living, viz., Mr. John Baldwin, Ra. Baldwin, son of Christopher, and Thomas Whalley.

Easter Leet, held 30th March, 8th George I., was adjourned from that time till the 5th of May then next.

Att Easter Leet, held 20th April, 9th Geo., the Court was adjourned from that time till that day 8 weeks; adjourned from thence for one week, when 3 aldermen were elected, viz., John Baldwin, gent., James, Earl of Barrimore, Thomas Willis, Esq. (all living).

At Easter Leet, held 11th April, 10th George I., one alderman was elected, viz., Mr. James Tempest (living).

Nicholas Stratford had been presented to the living in Wigan and the bishopric of Chester in 1689 by the trustees of Sir Orlando Bridgeman. He died on the 12th February, 1706-7, and was buried at Chester, and on his memorial tombstone there there is to be seen the following inscription:—

Nicholas Stratford, S.T.P., Natus est Hempstead, in com. Hartf., anno 1633. Factus est Coll. S.S. Trinitatis Oxon, Socius, 1656. Collegii Christi apud Mancunium in com. Lancastriæ Guardianus, 1667. Sanctæ Margaretæ Leicestriæ, in Eccl. Lincoln. Prebendarius, 1670. Ecclesiæ Asaphensis Decanus, 1673. In ecclesia de Aldermanbury Lond. Concionator, 1683. Ecclesiæ de Wigan Rector et Cestriæ Episcopus, 1689. Mortuus est 12mo die Februarii, 1706-7. Ex vitâ per 18 annos hic sanctissime instituta memoriam sui reliquit omni marmore perenniorem, Reformatum fidem eruditis contra Pontificios Scriptis strenue asseruit. Ecclesiæ defensor prius quam pater. Illorum quos adeptus est honorum nullos ambuit; nonnullos sponte deposuit. Divitiarum adeo erat non cupidus, ut post 40 annos inter dignitates Ecclesiasticas exactos rem sibi relictam non solum non auxerit, sed in Fuendis Ecclesiæ ipsi creditæ juribus eam libentissime imminuerat. Morum simplicitate, charitate in omnes. Pietate in Deum erat plane primævå. Episcopalse munus eå fide administravit, ut qui ordinem non agnoscerent, virum faterenta essee revera apostolicum. Laboribus magis quam annis fractus occubriut, a Christo, cui solo serviebat, promissum dispensatori fido præmium laturus. Gulielmus Stratford, S.T.P., filius unicus, Archi-Diaconus Richmondiæ, Ædis Christi, apud Oxon Canonicus, Optimi Patri.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wigan Sports and Race Course—Churchwardens' Accounts for 1700—General Election—Whig and Tory Members for Wigan—Wigan Agreements—Wur and Loyal Addresses—General Election in Wigan—Ford's Charity—Charities of Willes, Holt, and others—Organ in Parish Church—Resolution passed at Parish Meeting—Election—Death of Henry Bradshaigh—Election—Religion and Politics—Local Trials and Executions—Local Bye Law—Mayor's Gallery in Parish Church.

WHERE was now quite a craze for athletic sports in Lancashire, Wigan being one of the chief centres. 'There there was a properly prepared course of three miles, part of which is now the Cricket Ground. The names of the competitors had to be given in to the town bailiff, and five shillings deposited as entrance fee for the chief race for a plate of £10 value. The sports lasted for In the year 1700 they continued for three days, viz., 6th, 7th, and The highest prize for running on the first day was a £10 plate, that on the second day a 50s. plate, and on the third day an £8 plate. The sports were publicly advertised during every market day for over a month before, with the hope of inviting distant competitors. These races for footmen afterwards gave place to horse races on the same ground, but there are no races at Wigan now. following is an advertisement from the London Gazette which re-appeared in "Local Gleanings," Vol. I.:-

A Plate of £10 value will be run for by Footmen, on Tuesday, the 6th of August next, at Wigan, in Lancashire, the usual 3 Miles Course there; all Persons may run that enter their names with the Bayliffs there by the First of the said month, and that pays down 5s. On the 7th a Plate of 50s. value will be run for there, excluding such as ran for the first Plate. And on the 8th a Plate of £5 value will be run for there, and any Persons to put in without paying anything to this or the foregoing Plate (except the winner of the first Plate), provided they enter their names as above said.—(June 10 to 13, 1700).

The churchwardens' accounts have never been published, although the entries are very useful and interesting items of local history. The accounts for 1700 are the only examples given here in entirety, not because that is a more interesting year

than any other, but simply as a good illustration of the whole. Every item of expenditure in connection with the Parish Church is there carefully entered. Every penny officially spent by the churchwardens is accounted for, and the receipts from the different townships given. The following entries have been copied directly from the account book now in the vestry at the Parish Church.

The accounts of William Smith and John Rigby, churchwardens of the Towne and parish of Wigan, beginning the second day of Aprill, 1700, and ending the two and twentieth day of Aprill, 1701.

Impris.	Reed. of the Township of Wigan	£15 00 00
Itm.	Recd. of the Constables of Haigh and Aspul	7 10
Itm.	Recd. of the Constables of Hindley, Abram, Billinge, Winstanley, and Orrell	7 10
Itm.	Recd. of the Constables of Ince and Pemberton	7 10
Itm.	Recd. of the Constables of Upholland and Dalton	7 10
		52 10 00

The disbursements of the said William Smith and John Rigby, churchwardens, are as ffols. (vizt.):—

2nd of Aprill, 1700. Impris. paid for ale and other things with the parishioners at	000 1	- ^^
	£00 1	
Itm. pd. for ringing on the 11th of Aprill, 1700, being the king's birthday	00 0	
Itm. pd. for ale and meate at sweareing of the sidesmen		
Itm. pd. to Thomas Barton for iron worke about the bells as appears by bills		
Itm. pd. to Charles Banks for lead and worke done about the church		
Itm. pd. for new bell ropes to John Carter		
Itm. pd. for a flox head to James Langshaw	00 0	1 00
Itm. pd. for twoe ffox heads to John Grimshaw	00 0	2 00
Itm. pd. for a ffox head to Ellen Ryding	00 0	1 00
Itm. pd. to Wm. Parr	00 0	1 00
Itm. pd. to Edward Bayley for makeing a new Press for poore's bread and for		
mending beeres	3 1	2 00
Itm. pd. for ringing on the 29th of May, 1700	00 0	6 00
Itm. pd. for a new paire of surplices and for makeing them	02 1	7 00
Itm. pd. for church clerk and for washing the church linen	01 0	0 00
Itm. pd. to John Laithwaite for dressing ffag lane and for mending the bell ropes,		
and making the church yard cleane	00 0	8 00
Itm. pd. at the Parish meeting	00 0	5 00
Itm. pd. out on the several constables at receiving of the money	00 0	3 00
Itm. pd. out on Mr. Holt and other gents, of the parish at the time when Mr. Holt		
gave the poore's bread	00 0	9 00
Itm. pd. at two meetings	00 0	2 00
Itm. pd. to Peter ffairhurst for slateing stiple (steeple) and vestry and for nacles	00 10	08
Itm. pd. to church clerk for wire for the church clock and for other things	00 0	5 00
Itm. pd. for one half years's ringing	00 13	3 00
Itm. pd. to Mr. Grime (?) for two large prayer books and paper booke and sheete		-
almanack	01 10	031
Itm. pd. to the clerk for sweeping the church	01 00	-

Distory of Wigan.

Itm. pd. to Mr. Carter with the sidesmen	£00	04	00
Itm. pd. at a meetinge at the Bishopp's court	00	14	00
Itm. pd. to Thomas Cronelly for Teaseing of the Steeple and other work	00	10	00
Itm. paid to the Church Clerk for Coppying out the Registers	00	10	00
Itm. pd. for Communion bread for the whole year	00	05	00
Itm. pd. to Henry Taylor for mending the Church yard stile	. 00	01	06
Itm. pd. to George Greene for mending of the church yard gate and for wood			08
Itm. pd. to James Molineux for mending of the church windows for the whole years	01	05	02
Itm. pd. to Adam Young for white lyming in and about the church	00	05	00
Itm. pd. for 3 leads of lyme	00	05	00
Itm. pd. to Adam Young for work done in and about the church	00	11	08
Itm. pd. for ringing at the king's return	00	05	00
Itm. pd. for ringing on the 4th and 5th November	00	17	00
Itm. for neales and other things for the new Presse	00	02	02
Itm. pd. for oyle and other things to Mr. Baldwin	00	04	091
Itm. pd. for the Cannons of the Church	00	01	06
Itm. pd. at the Bishopp's Court for ffees	00	08	10
Itm. pd. for ringing on the 11th of Aprill, 1701	00	08	00
Itm. pd. for warrants		02	06
Itm. pd. for 18 quarts of wyne to Upholland	01	10	00
Itm. pd. for 12 quarts of wyne to Billinge Chappell	01	00	00
Itm. pd. for 6 quarts of wyne to Hindley	00	10	00
Itm. pd. for Communion wyne for Wigan, being Lent wyne	17	18	00
Itm. pd. to Mr. Martin for mending the church clock	02	10	00
Itm. for work done about the bells to John Smith and John Laithwaite	15	04	00
Itm. pd. for attending the church clock one quarter	00	10	00
Itm. pd. for 2 prayer bookes for ffast day	00	01	04
Itm. pd. for mending the little Beere (Bell ?)	00	00	04
Itm. pd. to Mr. Greenhough for painteing and laying gold letters upon the Presse	05	00	00
Itm. pd. for drawing these accounts	00	02	00
Itm. pd. for making the yard in sd. ffagg lane	00	04	00
22nd of Aprill, 1701.			

These accounts before written were then seen and allowed by us whose names are hereinafter subscribed, and we doe find there to the sd. churchwardens, Mr. Wm. Smith and Mr. John Rigby, from the Towne and parish of Wigan, the sum of three pounds and ninepence, and doe hereby order the same to be paid by the present churchwardens, Mr. John Harvey and Mr. James Leyland, ffullos., out of the ffirst Leyes that shall be laid for the use of the sd. Towne and parish.

ZACH. TAYLOR, CUP.
WM. WOOD.
JOHN BALDWIN.
GERRARD FFORD.
ROBERT FFELLINGHEAD (?).
WM. ARROWSMITH.
ROGER BULLOCKE.
his R. B. mark.
GER. BANCKS.
JOSEPH HIND.
his + mark.
RA. BANCKS.

The dawn of the eighteenth century was clouded with gloomy forebodings to England. The king was gradually and perceptibly slipping into his grave at the very time when-according to all human appearances-his life was most necessary Affairs between England and Scotland had reached such a crisis that something should inevitably be done either to alienate or cement the two countries. The Jacobites, high in the hope that the Stuarts would soon have their own again, were prepared to take the field at a moment's notice. Many were discontented with the ruling of William, as must necessarily be the case at the beginning of every The Whigs, anxious to subvert the ruling Tories, seized every doubtful dynasty. opportunity of causing political commotion. News had just arrived from France of the death of James, and it was expected that the national sympathy would foster fresh Jacobite feelings; but, simultaneously with that news, came the intelligence that the king of France had broken faith with England—that the treaty of Kyswick had been openly ignored and violated, and, from that moment, everything with a French connection was hopeless of success in England. The Tories were exposed as the enemies of the country and the courtiers of France, and there was immediately a revulsion of feeling in favour of Whigism. Parliament was dissolved, writs were issued, and the most keenly contested election known to king and men took place. the ancient and loyal borough of Wigan was again to be lured into a contest.

The following shows how agreeably one constituency wrought into the hands of the other, so that in times of a general election the electors of one place might not be debarred from giving their votes in another:—

Wigan, Jany. 7, 1700-1.

Richard Norris, Esq.,

Mayor.

Worshipful Sir,

The day of election for Burgesses of Parliament for this Corporation is proclaimed to be on the 13th instant. This is, therefore, to desire you (if possibly you can) so to order the day of election for your Town that we may have those of your Corporation who are Burgesses of this here to give their votes at this election, whereby you will oblige very many, and among them

Your humble and already obliged servant,

P. HADDON.

-(Chet. Soc. Pub., vol. ix., p. 60, the Norris Papers.)

Never had the Whigs made such a determined stand, never had they been so anxious to win. They were as free with their money as if they had improvised a mint of their own. Down into every borough went their representatives and electioneering agents. Couriers, with speeches, pamphlets, and electioneering aphorisms and political war-cries, posted to every borough and county. Every burgess of Wigan might have made for himself a small library of broadsheets, so plentiful was the supply, although there is good reason for supposing that many of the voters were

unable to read. Of course bribery and corruption were unknown by their modern names: a guinea was a convincing argument, not a bribe. Money was the strongest language an electioneer could use: verbosity had no power of persuasion: no English dictionary contained words that could be woven into an argument so strong as the small glittering pieces in the stocking-like purses of the canvassers. The voter admired the language of all candidates alike, but their golden apostrophes were the logical premises that decided the conclusions. In the three previous general elections Wigan had sent to Westminster nothing but Tories, and it was expected by the Tories she would do the same again; but an election, influenced by substantial persuasions, is as deceitful as bewitching beauty. To the disgust of all high-minded Tories, Wigan returned a Whig and a Tory, Sir Roger Bradshaigh and Sir Alexander Rigby, Knight, the latter of whom had unsuccessfully petitioned against the returns of 1698, when he had been a discomfited candidate. This Whig Parliament, which assembled in December, 1701, was the fifth and last Parliament under William and Mary.

During the eighteenth century there were twenty general and nine bye elections in Wigan. At six of these general elections two Tories were returned, 1702, 1708, 1710, 1714, 1790, 1796; at two of them, 1768 and 1774, two Whigs were returned. According to the returns of the other twelve elections, both parties were represented. By two bye elections the parties were differently represented; in 1775 a Tory gained a seat from the Whigs, and in 1782 a Whig obtained a Tory seat. In nine consecutive Parliaments Sir Roger Bradshaigh represented Wigan as a Tory, and in the five following ones he was the representative of the Whigs. He became a turncoat at the general election of 1716, which was a very critical one.

The following local agreement, disagreement, and arbitration is of interest :-

1st July, 1702.—Articles of Agreement between Thomas Edleston, now of the city of London, victualler, of the one part, and Alice Rigby, of Wigan, spinster, of the other part. Whereas Richard Arrowsmith, of Pemberton, co. Lanc., husbandman, deceased, did by his will give a tenement in Wigan to the benefit of four sisters, Elizabeth, Margaret, Mary, and Alice Rigby equally. And whereas Thomas Edleston, who married Elisabeth Rigby, the eldest sister, and has purchased the shares of Margaret and Mary Rigby and doth now live in the city of London, at a great distance, hath a mind to sell the premises, and hath offered a sum of money to Alice Rigby for her share, but she desires more. Wherefore it is agreed by the parties hereto that the property shall be appraised by James Mollyneux, of Wigan, glazier, and John Prescott, of Hindley, yeoman, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS EDLESTON.

Signed, sealed, &c., in the presence of us, W. Rylands, John Dicconson.

28th July, 1702.—Know ye that we, Thomas Edleston, of the parish of St. Clement's, Danes, in the county of Middlesex, and Elizabeth, wife of the said Thomas Edleston; Margaret Rigby, of Cartwright Street, Westminster, spinster; John Cullis, of the parish of St. Anne, in the county of Middlesex, and Mary, wife of the said John Cullis; and Alice Rigby, of Wigan, spinster, have

quit-claimed, &c., to John Prescott, of Hindley, co. Lancaster, gent., as well as all legacies, bequests, &c., bequeathed to us by the will of the said Richard Arrowsmith, &c., &c.

(Signed) ELIZABETH EDELSTON.

THO. EDELSTON.

JOHN CULLIB.

ALICE RIGBY.

MARGARET RIGBY.

Sealed, signed, and delivered by ELIZABETH EDELSTON, JOHN CULLIS, and MARGARET RIGHY, in the presence of Will. Dandy, Elizabeth Clayton, X her mark.

Sealed, signed, and delivered by Thomas Edelston and Alice Righe, in the presence of James Mollyneux, John Dicconson.

It seemed to be the predestined fate of England to get mixed up in every Continental dispute as if the English nation was always on the que vive for war. On the battlefield of modern Europe the English troops, with German and Dutch allies, met under the command of Lord Churchill—afterwards Duke of Marlborough—to settle the disputed Spanish succession. The two great victories of 1704 were Blenheim and Gibraltar, and the whole country was so elated with the success that Queen Anne was presented with numerous addresses of congratulation. The following address, preserved in the Chetham Library, Manchester, was signed by Bishop Stratford and presented to Queen Anne in 1704:—

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Bishop, Dean and Chapter, Archdeacons, and Clergy of the Diocese of Chester.

May it please your Sacred Majesty,

To permit us together with the rest of your Loyal Subjects to Congratulate the Success of the pedition of Your Forces under the Command of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough; which has been attended with all the happy circumstances that could any way contribute to enhance the Glory of it: and is as much to be admired for the Design, as for the Execution; nor more important for the Entireness of the Victory than for ye juncture in which it was obtained.

It has also pleased God that the joy of your People should be further heighten'd by the Defeat of the French at Sea where the Conduct and Bravery of your Admiral overcame all the Advantages on which the Enemy, with so much reason presumed.

The Peculiar Providence that blesses your Counsels must be remarkable to all men, who have seen the Power of the French King (which till your Majesty's Access to the English Throne had overborn all Opposition and was then likely to overrun Europe) so soon and signally checkt and broken, at a time and by those Hands He least expected.

Your Clergy, who have had so early and so great a part, in your Care and Munificence, are bound by all ties to pray to God, that he would continue His Blessings to us, by prolonging your Reign over us, that we may see y' glory of it contemplated; That when through the Divine Assistance, you shall have settled Peace in Europe, you may be as renowned for the Propagation of Religion and Learning as you are for the success of your Arms.

(Signed) N. CESTRIENS, &c., &c., &c.

If a single individual rules over sovereign and country, that individual is sure to be a woman. The beauty, capricious wit and temper, and political deceit and intrigue, if not wickedness, of Lady Marlborough brought Queen Anne beneath their spells. This lady, once a poor and penniless girl, guided and governed Anne, and

Hitherto the feeling of the queen and country was Anne ruled over England. naturally opposed to a Whig Government, but the beauty and darling of the palace was a Whig, and savagery and civilisation must alike yield to beauty, and so, at this time, and often before and since, did politics. By crafty suasion the queen was first enticed into tolerating the Whigs for the sake of her confidential pet, and that toleration grew and spread, like an epidemic, through the whole country into the smallest and staunchest boroughs. The results of that powerfully winning influence were an overwhelming Whig return at the general election of 1705, being the second Parliament of Queen Anne. In the previous election, Wigan, true to her colours and traditions, had returned two Tories-members of families who almost claimed the seats as heirlooms—Sir Roger Bradshaigh and Orlando Bridgeman. So infectious and powerful was the influence of a beautiful and determined woman, that even Wigan, yielding to the reaction that had been commenced by her fascinations, returned a Whig, Emanuel Howe, with Sir Roger Bradshaigh. The election cries were naturally, as usual, like the dead sea fruit, everything to please the eye and gratify the wish, until grasped after the work of the hustings was over, when they vanished into thin air, or exploded and left but an offensive smoke and indelible chagrin. The eyes of the Wigan burgesses had scarcely been opened to their political back-sliding when they regretted it and longed for another election. But the die was cast for that Parliament, which, indeed, did not obtain its majority in vain, for it accomplished a work of the highest possible importance to the country, negotiations, for which had been going on since the reign of the first Stuart—the union of England and Scotland. The discontent and pleasure over the accomplishment of this great act were alike shared in Wigan, where Tories lamented over the prospective influx of Presbyterians who would be certain to overwhelm or undermine the Episcopalians, and Whigs groaned as their minds' eyes beheld the steady emigration of all trade from England to Scotland, where labour was cheap. The party of peace and advancement rejoiced, and the Whigs, as a party, were pleased because they were in power, and the honour would be theirs in the annals of their country. The Whigs became more powerful then ever, but Wigan had not forgotten her former chagrin, and at the next general election, in the summer of 1708, she returned to her first love and sent two Tories from the house of Haigh. The brothers, Sir Roger and Henry Bradshaigh, were duly elected. This election was the precursor of the great political re-action, for although the Whigs went back in power they had reached their zenith. Great men, who rise in the annals of all countries, shoot across their social and national horizons like bewildering comets, and having accomplished some important work, pass away into oblivion, only to be raised from the dead by future historians, and so, too, the great political parties of English government are raised

to power, but have no sooner done their work, or failed in the attempt, than they are overtaken by some new progressive idea and hurled from their lofty heights. Scarcely had this Whig Government brought about the union then a paltry incident, made important by their own bigotry, overwhelmed them in disgrace. An appeal had to be made to the country before their legitimate three years lease had been The Parliament of 1708 to 1710 was the first Parliament of the United Kingdom. It was a Whig Parliament to which Wigan had sent two Tories. Here was the election again, and bravely did both parties fight in the election of 1710. no struggle in Wigan, for she was given up by the Whigs as a malignant Tory. Her principles had been tried and determined in the previous struggle. The same two Tory brothers were returned to the fourth Parliament of Anne, and Wigan rejoiced that the Tories had a large majority in the new government, in which the Prime Minister was Oxford, who can scarcely be said to have been assisted by his bitter rival, though partizan, the infidel, Bolingbroke. In 1713 the younger member for Wigan, Henry Bradshaigh, died, and at the bye election of April 22nd of the same year George Kenyon, a Tory, was appointed in his stead.

Gilbert Ford, by will dated 2nd January, 1705, devised one moiety of a close in Wigan, containing three tofts of land or thereabouts, to his executors, on trust, to lay out the rents and profits in linen, cloth, and thread, and to cause shifts to be made thereof, and distribute the same to such poor persons, inhabitants of Wigan, every Christmas eve, as his trustees and their heirs should, in their discretion, think convenient. The Commissioners in 1839 found that with one moiety of the rent Mrs. Tennant (she having the management of the charity) purchases linen or flannel, which she has made up into garments, and gives them away about Christmas to such poor women of the town of Wigan as she thinks most proper objects of charity.

The following is an epitome of the information obtained by the Royal Commissioners on enquiring into the charities of Welles, Holt, and others:—

In a decree of the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster, made in a suit instituted by the Attorney-General against Thomas Bowyer, 3rd September, 1741, it is recited that Ellen Welles, by her will bearing date 22nd August, 1707, bequeathed £100 to the poor of Wigan, and that Richard Welles, by his will bearing date 8th December, 1707, bequeathed £200, either to be made use of towards employing the poor of Wigan or the improvement thereof or to put boys of that town apprentices yearly for ever.

By the decree above-mentioned, and another made in the same suit, 2nd March, 1752, it was ordered that the £100 left by Ellen Welles and £200 left by Richard Welles should be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Wigan, and placed out by them, with the consent of the Mayor and justice of the borough

of Wigan, the produce of £100 to be laid out in linen cloth, to be distributed at Christmas yearly amongst such of the poor belonging to the town as the churchwardens, with the Mayor and justice of the peace of Wigan for the time being, should appoint, and the produce of the sum of £200 to be disposed of in employing the poor, or in putting out poor boys of the town of Wigan apprentices, by the overseers and churchwardens of Wigan, with the consent of the said Mayor and justice of the peace.

Edward Holt, by his will bearing date 7th October, 1704, bequeathed £150 to James Holt and nine others of the town or parish of Wigan, upon trust, to put forth the same at interest, or to lay it out in purchasing land or a rent charge, and to lay out the yearly produce thereof in oat bread, or any other sort of bread as they should think most meet; and he directed that they should cause such bread to be distributed to such poor people as for the time being should inhabit and dwell within Wigan, and also within the townships of Haigh, Aspull, Ince, Pemberton, Hindley, Abram, and Winstanley, as the said trustees or the major part of them should direct and appoint, the same bread to be distributed in the Parish Church of Wigan in the manner following (that is to say), 22 penny loaves every Sunday, viz., one Sunday to the poor of Wigan, and the other Sunday to the poor of Haigh, Aspull, Ince, Pemberton, Hindley, Abram, and Winstanley, and so on alternately; and he further bequeathed to the same trustees £75, upon trust, that they should lay out the same in like manner, and with the yearly produce thereof buy 10 twopenny loaves every Sunday, and distribute the same in the Parish Church of Wigan to 10 of the most necessitous poor persons, inhabitants within the town of Wigan, such as the said trustees should nominate; and he thereby appointed that whenever seven of the said trustees should happen to die the survivors or survivor and his heirs should choose seven other honest, substantial persons, inhabiting in the town of Wigan, to be trustees, in the room of those so dying. The same testator also left to trustees £100, the vearly produce thereof to be applied in the purchase of bread for the poor of Blackrod. He also bequeathed £25 for the better maintenance of poor householders and inhabitants belonging to Shevington, and for teaching poor children to read or binding them out apprentices. The several legacies above-mentioned were laid out in 1774, together with other money, upon the Workhouse.

By indentures of lease and release bearing date 16th and 17th June, 1767, between John Marsden, of the first part; Thomas Barton, of the second part, and William Ollerhead, Mayor of Wigan; the Rev. Shirley Cotes, Rector of Wigan; John Percival, and seven others, the then churchwardens of the said parish, and overseers of the town of Wigan, of the third part; the said John Marsden and

Thomas Barton, in consideration of £175, conveyed to the said William Ollerhead and others, their heirs and assigns, a close of land, being part of a field called the Great Trumpeter's Field, and containing by estimation 1 acre 1 rood 18 poles, upon trust, to build thereon one or more houses to be used as a workhouse for the maintenance and employment of the poor of the borough and town of Wigan: and upon further trust to demise the same by way of mortgage for securing the repayment of any sums of money borrowed for the building or furnishing the said houses: and upon trust to pay the clear profits of the said close for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Wigan, as the said trustees, with the Mayor of Wigan and the justice of the peace of the same, and the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, should think fit.

By indenture bearing date 13th June, 1768, the premises above-mentioned were demised for 2,000 years to the Right Hon. Richard Clayton as a security for £200, with interest, and by indenture bearing date 22nd October, 1771, Edward Clayton and Richard Clayton, executors of the above-named Richard Clayton, assigned the said term to Roger Holt, his executors, &c., in trust for the said Edward Clayton.

There was also produced to us an indenture, bearing date 24th March, 1774, between Joanna Holt and Thomas Barton, executors to the above-named Roger Holt, of the first part; Robert and William Clayton, executors of the above-named Edward Clayton, of the second part; Robert Green, the then mayor, William Ollerhead, and six others of the third part; and Robert Percival, William Bolton, and William Rigby of the fourth part, purporting to be an assignment of the said term of 2,000 years, as security for the sum of £892 6s. 2d., with interest, to the parties of the fourth part, who, it is recited, had advanced for the building and furnishing the said workhouse, £692 6s. 2d., and had also paid off the said sum of £200.

This indenture was not executed by Joanna Holt and Thomas Barton, in whom the term had become vested as executors of Edward Holt.

On this indenture there is an endorsement, without any signature thereto, which states that £200, part of the within mentioned sum of £892 5s. 2d., was trust money, arising from a fine lately paid for a lease of a messuage and lands in Rainford, devised by the will of Edward Bir; that £85 8s. 2d. belonged to the Corporation of Wigan, arising from fines paid upon admission of Freemen: that £302 was trust money given by the several wills of Richard Welles, and Ellen, his wife, the rest to be applied to the poor of Wigan; that £225 was given by the will of Edward Holt, for the purposes mentioned in his will: that £60 was given by the will of Henry Mason, the interest to be applied in binding poor children of Wigan apprentices, and £20 given by the will of Mrs. Keeling, the interest to be applied to teach five poor children of Wigan to read, and that the yearly interest

of the said several sums should be paid and applied for the uses to which they were respectively appropriated.

There was also produced another indenture, bearing date 21st March, 1774, and containing a declaration of trust with respect to the sum of £892 5s. 2d., similar to what is declared by this endorsement in the indenture of assignment above mentioned, but this deed is not executed.

Upon the preceding abstracts the following observations arise:—First, with respect to the purchase deed of 1767, although it is provided thereby that the clear rents, after paying the interest of any money borrowed for the purpose of erecting a workhouse, should be paid for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Wigan; it does not appear but that the purchase was made solely for the advantage of the rated inhabitants, and without any view of giving an immediate benefit to the poor, nor does it appear that the consideration was devised for any charitable donation. Secondly, with respect to the assignment of 1774, as the deed was not executed by the executors of Roger Holt, it must be considered that the legal estate in the Workhouse premises, is now vested for the residue of the 2000 years, in the representations of the survivors, subject to the equity of redemption, by the heirs of the last survivor of the trustees named in the indenture of 1767, all of them being now dead, in the payment of the sum of £892 5s. 2d., with interest; and lastly, though no declaration of trust was formerly executed as to the several sums of money, which were comprised in the sum of £892 6s. 2d., yet there is sufficient evidence to supply this defect, and to show that the workhouse premises are chargeable with such several sums; and that the interest on the whole sum, except in £85 fs. 2d., which is payable to the corporation, is applicable to the different charities from which they are stated to have been devised.

The premises above mentioned are strictly used as a workhouse for the poor of the township of Wigan, and as the interest of the several sums laid out thereon, there is now paid out of the poor rates the yearly sum of £27 6s. 3d., being at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., on the said sum of £607, devised from the charities of Ellen and Richard Welles, Edward Holt, Henry Mason, and Mrs. Keeling, and £4 5s. 4d. is paid to the corporation at the interest at 5 per cent. on the sum of £15 6s. 2d. No interest has been paid for a long period on the sum of £200, devised for parish charity.

For several years, previous to 1828, £17 4s. only had been paid for the poor rates, apparently by mistake, but upon looking into the documents above noticed, before an enquiry took place, the error was discovered, and in the beginning of 1828 £27 6s. 3d. was paid to the churchwarden.

The sum of £17 14s. has been usually added to the rent of the estate

belonging to the charity of Edmond Molyneux and disposed of therewith, in bread, amongst the poor of such townships of the parish as attend the church of Wigan. This sum was in the year 1828 carried to the account; and in January, 1828, £4 10s., as the interest of £100 given by Ellen Welles, was laid out, with other money, in linen, which was disposed of by the churchwardens amongst 35 poor women of the township of Wigan, recommended by one or more of the principal householders of the town. The residue remained, in September, 1828, in the hands of the churchwardens, who had not at that time decided in what manner it should be disposed of.

Protestants destroyed cathedrals, monasteries, and images, and the Puritans, in their day of victory, went further, and purged the Protestant churches of organs even, so that sounds of mirth should give place to solemn and more fitting prayer. The building of the first church organ in Wigan Parish Church gave rise to an important local law suit with the town v. the rector, or, as represented in the Court, Ralp Banks, gentleman, syndic of the Mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of the borough of Wigan, in the diocese of Chester, and Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Baronet, Ralph Winstanley, and William Glassbrook, parishioners of Wigan, appellants: against the Reverend and Honourable Edward Finch, Clerk, M.A., Rector of Wigan, and William Holland and William Taylor, churchwardens, respondents.

It seems that the rector and churchwardens, if not the whole parish, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, wished to have an organ in the church, and accordingly in 1709 they built one. Whether the burgesses, as a body, objected to this on principle, or whether they objected out of petty, jealous, spite, being determined to maintain their rights, is not particularly stated, although from the evidence of the facts it seems to have been a mere question of dignity. went about the erection of the organ in a high-handed manner, and the Corporation Although Mr. Finch was rector of the parish, he was not sole was offended. proprietor of the Parish Church, and the Corporation, having a share in the concern, should have been consulted concerning the improved innovation. that the mayor, burgesses, and bailiffs had not room in the ordinary church pews to bow their portly bodies or to kneel comfortably; it may be also they felt their robes (although the mayor had then neither gown nor chain) were not sufficiently conspicuous in pews on the flat. Be that as it may, they determined to build a gallery for their own special use and comfort, where they could kneel, see, and be seen: so they built a gallery between the nave and chancel about 1685, and paid The Corporation gallery was, therefore, the town's property; but the cost thereof. Mr. Finch thought that where that gallery was there the organ should be, and accordingly, without consulting the Corporation, pulled down the gallery and built

The burgesses were offended, and rather than sit spread here and there over the body of the church, many of them left the church and went nowhere. Mr. Finch repented, and being wishful to bring back his flock to the fold, offered to build a new gallery at his own expense; but the offended dignity of the Corporation was not so easily conciliated, and so the town went to law as above stated. Rector built an oak gallery, with seats for 80 persons, over the west window, as a bribe to bring back the dissenting Corporation. The seats in this gallery not occupied by the Town Council were let out to parishioners, and the proceeds applied to the repairing and beautifying of the organ. (In 1717 the salary of the organist was fixed at £20 per annum.) After much hesitation and disputation the gallery was built, and remained until the restoration of the church in 1847, although the inhabitants and Corporation were so dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Rector that an action at law was the result. The suit was tried at Chester, and the town lost, but appealed to the higher ecclesiastical court at York. the court pronounced against the appeal on the 14th October, 1710; but the town again appealed, after paying costs. After a long, litigious, and circumlocutionary disagreement, the town, on the 10th June, 1712, was ordered again to pay costs and keep "perpetual silence."

The following is a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the parish in the vestry by the sympathisers of the Rector on this occasion, and entered in the minutes of the churchwardens, from which it is taken, and here published for the first time:—

Wigan, Feby. 3d, 1709-10.

It is this day agreed and ordered at a Parish meeting yt. the thanks of this Parish be returned to ye Honble. and Reverd. Mr. Edward Finch, our Rectr., for ye great trouble he hath undergone and ye favour he has shewd. us in endeavouring to procure a good organ for our church, and ye preparations he hath already made to set it up in a Proper Place. We are very sorry yt. some p'sons have usd. their endeavours to obstruct soe good a work and given him soe much groundless trouble by indicting ye workmen he Imployed and makeing use of many names in our Parish, pretending ye greater pt. of it to be of ye same Oppinion for a Foundating or instituting a suit in ye Bps. Court to put a stop to this work. And we doe hereby disclaime every such act and deed, and heartily entreat our sd. Rectr. to continue his kindness, to cause this organ (left us by the will of Mr. Richd. Welles) to be set up as soon as may be. And we also agree yt. this order be fairly entered in our Parish Book, there to remain as a Testimony of our earnest desires to have ye worship of God p'formed in our Church wt. all due decency, and for a Gratefull memory of and obligation to our P. Honble. Rectr. for the great trouble and charge he hath undergone to promote the compleating and setting up of this organ.

This resolution is signed by 338 parishioners, of whom 122 make their mark in hieroglyphic strokes and fancy signs. That two-thirds of such a large number should be then able to write their own names speaks very favourably for the state of elementary education in the town, for there was not then as now 20,670 inspected public schools, with 3,155,000 scholars in the country.

The third Parliament of Queen Anne was dissolved 23rd September, 1710, and at the general election for her fourth Parliament Wigan returned two Tory representatives, Sir Roger Bradshaigh and his brother, Henry Bradshaigh. The Parliament assembled on the 25th November, 1710, but by the death of Henry, the younger representative of the house of Haigh, a Parliamentary vacancy occurred in the borough, and at a bye election, held on the 27th April, 1713, Wigan returned another Tory member, George Kenyon. This Parliament was dissolved on August 8th, 1713.

At the general election for the fifth Parliament of Anne, 1714, the year of her decease, a keen interest in political matters was shewn at the hustings by all parties So strong was the Tory feeling in the town that no Whig was found sufficiently presumptuous to enter the lists. That two Tories would get in was a foregone conclusion. Three Tories were nominated for the two seats, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, George Kenyon, and the Earl of Barrymore. Money, canvassing, speeches, bribery, and corruption—according to modern ideas, but then considered legitimate, and even necessary—were free agents of all. Barrymore, the new candidate, was determined to get in. In all 319 votes were given to the three candidates, and both the old representatives were returned. The poll shewed 128 votes for Sir Roger, 104 for Kenyon, and 87 for the Earl. Barrymore and his party, disappointed at the result, and chagrined at the ingratitude of the burgesses, determined to vent their spleen on the victorious party by appealing to the Government for an enquiry. A petition was formally filed and presented, but, as it was clear that nothing but recognised bribery and corruption had been resorted to, the petition was dismissed, and the members kept their seats until the beginning of the following year, when the first Parliament of George I. was convoked.

Great efforts had been made to ameliorate the condition of Nonconformists, one of the most active zealots in this cause being Bishop Wilkins, Rector of Wigan. The effort failed, and the laws against them were enforced with more stringency Trouble came on the nation, and the people were than before for some years. robbed of their annuities, many being reduced to poverty. The king sought the favour of the people by unconstitutionally granting the Declaration of Indulgence, by which Nonconformists were allowed to preach in chapels and churches. So proud were they of this indulgence that their hopes were raised so high as to make them publicly declare their confident belief that churches and cathedrals would soon be at their service. Bishop Stratford had exerted himself much to prevent his chapels coming into the hands of the Dissenters, and from Wigan he wrote many letters showing his indignation and determination to oppose all such proceedings, and especially in the case of Nettenhall Chapel, near Over, in Cheshire, where he neither supplied an incumbent himself to preach nor allowed a Dissenting minister to officiate.

A melancholy cavalcade passed through Wigan in 1715, the year after the accession of George I., who could neither speak nor write a word of English. Great Britain had become a vast Bedlam—every man was an enthusiast. Church and State were at war; Guelphs and Stuarts opposed each other, and the whole kingdom was divided against itself. In 1708 many of the best nobility of Scotland had been suspected, captured, bound with ropes, and driven like cattle to London prisons, which were prototypes of hell. The cause, of course, was politics and religion. Again the land was seized with the suicidal mania, and thousands of Jacobites took up arms in favour of the Pretender, who had not even yet set foot on British soil. armies were raised all over the land, proving that the Jacobite feeling was strong, and that the approaching struggle would be severe. Poets sang, journalists wrote, and ministers preached about the hopes and fears, justice and injustice, and madness of the times. Enthusiasm drove the rebels to rashness, and at Sheriff Muir and Preston on the same day their cause for the time was overthrown. Three hundred good and true men were taken prisoners at Preston after a brave resistance. were prepared for their march to London. Some were bound and some were loose, There were among them earls, lords, knights, and esquires, the chief of whom were the Earl of Derwentwater and his brother, Lord Widdrington and two brothers, and Edward Howard, brother of the Duke of Norfolk, and many others of illustrious Those of them who were allowed to ride had the bridles taken from their horses, whilst those who walked travelled their weary journey in pairs tied by the same rope. Here a father and son were tied together, and there two affectionate brothers, whilst there were frequent rows of cousins, the whole being closely guarded, although some managed to escape or were killed in the attempt. Thus were they marched through Wigan and other towns on their route, amidst the jeers of the Royalists and the sobbing sympathies of the Jacobites, and given into the cruel custody of the extortionate keepers of the prisons, where they had to mix with reprobates, murderers, chronic drunkards, and the very scum of the lowest society, until they were brought out to be ignominiously paraded to Tyburn, there to be hung till dead, and from thence taken to be quartered and exposed on prison gates in different parts of the country.

On Friday, Dec. 11th, 1715, just as the insurgents had taken possession of Preston, General Willes left Manchester for Wigan, taking with him four regiments of dragoons and one of foot, the best being the corps called "the Cameronians." At Wigan, where he arrived that evening, he was joined by Pitt's regiment of dragoons, which had been there quartered, and also by Stanhope's, which, having been disposed at Preston, had necessarily retired to Wigan on the approach of the insurgents. Five of these six horse regiments—Wynne's, Honeywood's, Munden's, Dormer's, and Stanhope's—

had been raised within the year; the men were raw recruits, but the officers experienced soldiers. Willes had intelligence at Wigan that General Carpenter would advance to Preston next day, and also that the insurgents were lingering there to sustain the attack. He therefore marched to Preston next day. The insurgents had been joined at Preston by almost all the Catholic gentry of the neighbourhood, amounting, with their tenants, to about 1,200. The mass of the recruits were mere rustics, and very imperfectly armed, some having swords and no muskets, others muskets and no swords, while a great number had only pitchforks or no weapons at all. Foster was perfectly ignorant At a council of the insurgents it was determined to send an advanced party of horse to Wigan, to plant strong guards at Derrin and Ribble Bridges, and to get the whole army in readiness to fight at the shortest notice. The insurgents surrendered on Sunday, 13th, to Carpenter, much to the chagrin of the soldiers. Among the captives were 75 English and 143 Scots, nobles and gentlemen, who were confined in irons. 1,400 common soldiers surrendered. 1,000 Scots were confined in the church. 17 insurgents were killed; 60 or 70 assailants were slain, and as many wounded.

Some of the prisoners contrived to escape and some were reprieved. Lord Nithsdale escaped by the strategy thirty and forty were hanged in London. of his countess, who, visiting her condemned husband in the Tower, carried female attire with her, in which he arrayed himself and passed out as the countess herself, Those prisoners who were not brought to without being detected by his sentinels. London were tried in Preston, where they were taken. Five of these were condemned and executed in Wigan, the town to which they belonged. Blindell, James Finch, John Macillwray, William Whatley, and James Burn were publicly executed in the Market Place, to the great pleasure of the Loyalists, but amidst the sympathetic groans of the Jacobites. Less sympathy was shown them in Wigan than might have been, for the rebels in their northward journey had plundered many of the Wigan people, and so rendered themselves, as a class, unpopular. They had passed through Wigan on the 28th of November full of the hopes of victory. but were led back fettered prisoners about a fortnight after.

The following is a new Wigan bye-law, passed September 2nd, 1715. It is taken direct from the minutes entered in the churchwardens' books:—

It is further ordered at the sd. parish meeting, for the more effectual punishment of wickedness and vice in this parish, that such persons as shall be presented p' the churchwardens in the Consistory Court shall be prosecuted p' the churchwardens of the sd. parish, which sd. order is to be in fforce until Easter and no longer.

CHAPTER IX.

Public Enterprise in Wigan in 1720—The three Acts of Parliament—Repairing the Post Road between Wigan and Preston—Repairing the Post Road between Wigan and Warrington—The first Turnpike Toll at Wigan—Assessments for the Relief of the Poor in Wigan in 1720—The Ratepayers—Baldwin's Charity—Water in Wigan—Building of the New Town Hall—Act for making the Douglas Navigable.

EVER before nor since has the spirit of progress taken such a hold on the Wigan mind as in 1720. The town had previously grown very little, and its commerce was small when compared with its natural wealth and advantages. On a review of the past it was evident that none of the local resources had been fully developed, and that all seemed content to jog along as their fathers had done before them. It then struck the people that theirs was a selfish existence, and that to their own Under their feet lay mines of wealth, which they were almost exclusively using for their own daily uses and comforts, and yet which, carefully and wisely developed, might accrue to them fortunes and luxuries. They were shut up in themselves by the spirit of protection, and enterprise had been foreign to Although they were not yet by any means advocates for free trade, their nature. they saw clearly it would be for their advantage to open their markets to all buyers, although they as strongly opposed the admission of foreign sellers to their markets. They determined to put themselves to great expense in opening the means of communication with their town to encourage purchasers to come to them. looked askance with a very jealous eye at the growing prosperity and enterprise of Liverpool, and even determined to make a great bid for its traffic. reason why the trade of Liverpool should not become the trade of Wigan. were convinced, indeed, that the trade of that town had been usurped from them. They determined to make Wigan the emporium of the north, and, had the ambitions of 1720 been persevered with, Wigan would undoubtedly have been the most important town in Lancashire; but these ambitions passed away as expensive dreams, and ever afterwards the town lagged in the rear of progress. The ambitions of that year gave rise to three important Acts of Parliament with the direct intention of extending the commerce of the town. One Act provided for the repairing, widening, and amending the roads from Wigan to Preston. Another, for repairing, widening, and amending the road from Warrington to Wigan; and the third, being the greatest, most important, and most ambitious of all, gave the right for making the River Douglas, alias Asland, navigable from the River Ribble to Wigan. These Acts were persevered with against opposition and obtained at great expense, which in itself proves the lively interest and hopes of the town. For the repair of the roads it was necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament, for the roads were in a very bad condition, and the inhabitants were unable to pay the great expense and could not be compelled to keep the roads in order. Of the road from Wigan to Preston, the preamble of the Act of Parliament says it is "the ancient accustomed road to North Britain and the common post road from the said towns to London, by reason of the many carriages of goods and merchandizes passing through the same, are become ruinous and almost impassable, especially in the winter season, and some parts thereof are so narrow that coaches and carriages cannot pass one by another; and, whereas the ordinary provisions made by the laws and statutes of this realm now in force are not sufficient for the effectual repairing and amending the highways and roads aforesaid, neither are the inhabitants of the several parishes and townships thereby liable to repair the same, or of ability so to do, without some other provision be made for that purpose, in regard that stones, gravel, and other materials necessary to amend the said roads lie at a great distance from the same." The trustees who were empowered to put the Act into execution included all the local gentry, the members of Parliament for Wigan, and the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the To defray the necessary expenses they were empowered to erect, between borough. Preston and Wigan, three toll-bars and as many toll-houses, where fixed dues were to be collected. The first Wigan turnpike toll-house and gate were erected at the south end of the house called the "Boar's Head." The amount of toll was fixed by the Act. If any refused to pay the dues, the trustees were empowered to levy the toll by distress of the goods and chattels belonging to such persons. was made against the evasion of tolls by passing through private grounds of other persons, and no opposition road was allowed to be made. The paragraph anent persons and things exempt from the toll runs thus:-""No person shall be charged with any of the tolls or duties aforesaid who shall pass through any turnpike or turnpikes to be erected by this Act, or other carriage that shall carry any quantity of stones, gravel, or other materials, for repairing the said road, or any of the roads in the parishes and townships, in which the roads hereby directed to be repaired do lie, or in any of the neighbouring parishes or townships, or for carrying through

the said turnpikes, or any of them, any lime, dung, mold, or compost of any nature or kind whatsoever, for the manuring of any gardens or lands within the said parishes or townships; nor for any waggons, wains, carts, or carriages carrying any hay or corn in the straw, to be laid up in the houses, barns, or outhouses of the respective inhabitants of the several parishes or townships through which the highways or roads aforesaid lead; nor for any ploughs, harrows, or other implements of husbandry, in order to the using or repairing of the same, or any other thing whatsoever employed in husbandry for manuring or stocking the land of such parishes or townships; nor shall any toll or duty be demanded or taken by virtue of this Act for any horses, geldings, or mares, mules, or asses going to or returning from any coal or kennel pit or pits, loaden or unloaden; nor for any horses, geldings, or mares going to or returning from any parish church or other place of divine worship upon Sundays, or with any corpse to be buried or interred at any church, or other place of burial; for any horses, geldings, mares, or cattle going to or returning from the pasture or watering places belonging to the respective farms of the inhabitants of any of the parishes wherein the roads hereby directed to be repaired lie; or for any post horse carrying the mail or packet, or going with any person riding post; or for such horse, gelding, or mare as is or shall be used only to ride on by the owner or driver of any waggon, wain, cart, or carriage, provided such horse, gelding, or mare pass through the said turnpike in company with such waggon, wain, cart, or carriage; nor for the horses, geldings, or mares belonging to the soldiers passing on their march, or for any carts, carriages, or waggons attending them; or for any horses, geldings, carts, or waggons travelling with vagrants sent by passes; nor shall any toll or duty be demanded for horses, geldings, mares, waggons, wains, carts, or carriages going or returning empty or unloaden to or from the said towns of Wigan and Preston; nor for any waggon, wain, cart, carriage, horse, gelding, mare, ass, or mule as shall or may be made use of in the drawing or carrying of any corn, grain, meal, or flower (flour) to or from any corn mill, being in any of the parishes or townships wherein the roads hereby directed to be repaired lie, as may pass and re-pass through any of the turnpikes to be erected by this Act." These newly imposed duties were to be levied in order to defray the expenses incurred by the extraordinary repairs, and in no way interfered with or changed the ordinary charges hitherto made. had been formerly chargeable for necessary repairs were chargeable still to the same But after all comparatively little expense could be incurred, as the repairs for the most part were made under an obsolete and odious system akin to Every man in the district was liable by the Act to be called upon to do three days' work, called the statute work, to the repair of the road. If a local surveyor refused to examine the roads when required, he was liable to a fine of

forty shillings; and if a person with a "team or other carriage" neglected or refused to perform his three days' labour, he was fined ten shillings for every day's default. whilst the poorest labourer who refused to break stones, or do other menial toil, was fined eighteenpence a day-almost half a week's wages-for each day of neglect. In none of these cases could defaulters be fined for more than their three days at a time, which was not annually, but "at such time and times as the surveyor shall, by writing under his hand, from time to time order and direct." All rents and profits had to be applied for the repairing of these roads, and for no other use or purpose whatever. If any parish or township considered itself aggrieved by an excessive amount of statute work imposed upon it, or considered that work was given it to do which ought to be done by another parish or township, the case had to be brought before any two justices of the peace for the county, at any petty or special sessions of the peace, and by them the case was adjudged. The first meeting of the trustees under the new Act was held at Euxton. It was considered sufficient time to pay all expenses by allowing the toll to continue for twenty-one years, and unless it could be shown that before that time all the expenses incurred had been reimbursed, the tolls were then to be abolished, and the old system reverted to. Justices of the peace were empowered to inquire into the affairs of the trustees, and if any abuse or misapplication of profits was found, they had to be made good. The trustees appointed collectors or receivers, who were bound to account for the toll and duties collected by them, and if found defaulters were to be committed to the "common gaol of the said county, there remain without bail or mainprize until he or they shall have made a true and perfect account and payment." On the death or removal of one trustee another was appointed, after "notice given in writing twenty days in the Market Places of Wigan and Preston." No trustee could derive any profit from his services. If the roads were found too narrow, adjoining land could be appropriated, after it was shown to be necessary before a justice of the peace, but the owners of the ground taken were to be compensated according to the opinions of the sworn jury. The watercourses and ditches had to be kept in good condition by the local occupiers of the land on pains and penalties.

On election days there were no tolls levied on electors, for "it is hereby declared that during the continuance of this Act all coaches, Berlins, chariots, calashes, chaises, and chairs as aforesaid, and all passengers on horseback, shall pass and repass toll free on the day or days on which there shall be an election for a knight or knights of the shire to serve in Parliament for the said county in Lancaster, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

Another Act similar to this was passed, Anno Decimo tertio Georgii Regis, for "Repairing, Widening, and Amending the Road from Warrington to Wigan, in the

County of Lancaster." This was a continuation of the ancient and accustomed post road from Preston to Wigan and London, passing through Hulme, Winwick, Newton, Haydock, Ashton, and Pemberton. The preamble of the Act shows the same necessity for the repairs as the previous one. The road was ruinous and almost impassable, especially in the winter season, and so narrow at some parts that coaches and carriages could not pass each other. The Act contains a long list of local trustees appointed. The tolls and other conditions were in all respects similar to those in the previous Act. The trustees held their first meeting at Newton, 19th May, 1727.

The assessments made for the relief of the poor in 1883 amounted to a fabulous sum, whilst in 1720 they were £48 14s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. The complete account of the rates for the latter year is given to show the individual amounts, the value of property in the different divisions of the town, the prevailing trades, and also to show that the common names of the inhabitants are still familiar amongst us.

An Assessment of Eighteen Leyes of land upon the Inhabitants and other occupiers of lands within the Burrough of Wigan for and towards the Releife of the impotent poore of the said Burrough, concluded and agreed upon the day of December, Anno Dom., 1720.

MARKET STREET.

Wm. Foster, Barber, and for house and			Mr. Baldwin£1	13	41
grd£	3		Occrs. of Mr. Matthew Markland house		
Mr. Tempest	6		and grd	12	9
Robert Orrell	7	11	Mr. Mason	2	71
Adam Catterall		9	Mrs. Alice Mason for Mrs. Hunt house		9
Wm. Catterall		41/2	Mrs. Hunt		4
Occrs. of John Houghton house		41	Mrs. Green		9
Wm. Acton		41	Mr. Richard Gerard	1	6
Edward Lee		9	Occrs, of Green's house	1	6
Richard Haslon, Shoemaker		41	Edward Mitton		41
Occrs. of Arthur Winstanley house		9	Robert Finch		9
Thomas Wigan		41	Mr. Kendall		9
Occrs. of Catterall house		9	Occrs. of Mr. Pennington's house and		
John Withnell		41	ground	4	6
Thomas Barrow, Hatter		41	Mr. Valentine	1	6
Richard Haslon, Butcher	1	6	Wm. Baldwin, Shoemaker		41
James Leyland		9	Occrs. of Mr. Molineux house		9
Mr. Richard Tootell	2	$7\frac{1}{2}$	James Langshaw, Pewterer		9
Mr. Wm. Baldwin 1	4	41	Peter Hall	1	11
James Moore		9	James Bancks	1	6
Mr. Randol Crook		9	Edward Holland		9
Mr. John Anzlearke	1	6	Cutchbert Finch		9
Mr. Alexander Courghey		9	Shearman Holme, unpade		9
Occrs. of John Thomason house		9	Wm. Farbrother		9
Hugh Taylor		9	Mr. Kennericke	1	6

			•		
ě	Lø	*****	ments.	2	07
Edward Wood	1	8 9 41 9 6 41 41 41 9	James Ackin £ John Bibby	1	44 44 44 44 9
Mr. Richard Gerard, Jun	8	9			
		HAL			
Cocrs. of Thomas Townlow house Occrs. of Roger Wood house John Marsden James Wigan James Ascroft Ralph Townlow house Roger Bibby Occrs. of Robert Bullock house Occrs. of Margaret Leigh house James Woods Ralph Baldwin Occrs. of Mr. Barrow house and croft Occrs. of James Prescott house Occrs. of James Prescott house Occrs. of John Stables house Wm. Battersby Occrs. of Adam Battersby house George Burdekin James Barrow Roger Almond house Edward Burdekin Wm. Wigan Ellin Kenyon	4	9 9 9 44 9 44 9 9 44 9 9 44 44 9 9 44 44	Thurstan Whaley	1	6 3 4 6 4 1 1 6 6 9 6 9 9 4 2 9 9 9 4 1 1 1 2 9 9 9 4 1 1 1 2 9 9 9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
John Walmesley, Esq	15		ŀ		
Edward Earlandhar			LGATE.		
Edward Farbrother	1	9 6 9 0 6 9 9	Richard Ranson £ Hugh and Peter Platt John Sherrington Jeffrey Sherrington Joseph Rigby Ralph Barton Ellinor Kirke Ralph Sale Wm. Hollis	2	1½ 6 0 9 7½ 4½ 1½ 9
John Thornton John Floyd		9	Ralph Tarleton	1	6 9

.

Gerard Tarleton£		9 1	Occrs. of Gilbert Dean house£		9
Ba. Browne	4	11	Thomas Winckley		9
Gerard Brown, Jun.		10 1	Occrs. of Jeffrey Wood house		9
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		3	Thomas Winnard		41
George Browne	2	9	Thomas Tatlocke		9
Occrs. of Ralph Dean house		-	Peter Mort, house and ground	0	9
Madam Steaple house		9	, ,	8	
Occrs. of John Waterson house		9	Thomas Greenhough		41
Occrs. of Wm. Green house		9	Occrs. of James Rigby house		9
Roger Taylor		4	Occrs. of Mr. Holland house		9
John Hardman	1	6	Occrs. of John Worthington field		9
Occrs. of Marsden house		9	Widow Jolly		9
James Ford, Groser	_	9	John Burges		9
Richard Baron	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	William Wood		9
Occrs. of Gilbert Green house		9	Lawrence Marsden		4
Thomas Barton		9	Thomas Walker		9
Occrs. of Totty house		9	Jeffrey Sherrington house		9
Occrs. of Leyland house		9	Ralph Clare		9
Wm. Winnard		9	Ellin Roobotham		9
John Unsworth	1	6			
		MILN	Egate.		
Occrs. of Mrs. Casson house and ground£	7	11	Wm. Ford£	8	3
Mr. Alexander Leigh		9	Ambrose Jolly		41
Richard Hoole		41	Themas Jolly	1	1
James Acton	12	-	Henry Bullock	1	
James Holme		9	Mr. Eden		101
James Baldwin		41	Occrs. of Mr. Standish ground	13	-
Hugh Bullock		9	George Cockerham ground	~	9
Wm. Finch	1	10 1	Occrs. of Lawrence Marsden house		9
Occrs. of Swan house	_	9	George Bolton		9
John Carter	1	6	Wm. Bancks, Sen.	2	3
Occrs. of Edward Markland house and	•	Ū	Wm. Bancks, Jun.	_	9
grd.	8		Mr. Adam Bancks	1	-
Mr. John Bancks	4		Thomas Bullocke	6	-
	1		Occrs. of John Bullock house	0	9
Mrs. Radeliff, for 2 houses	1	-	Richard Belsher		_
Ellin and Mary Blackhurst		41		1	-
Occrs. of James Leyland house		0	Ocors, of Mrs. Bridge house		9
Wm. Ford	8		Thomas Mather		0
Occrs, of Ralph Dean house		9	Richard Green		4
Lawrence Reynald		0	Richard Holland		41
Hugh Laithwaite	_	41	James Molineux	5	
Mrs. Sumner's Heirs	-	9	Thomas Acton	2	8
Ocors. of Mrs. Bowyer house and grd	1	101	Occrs. of Mr. Anderton house and		
Grace Harpur	1	-	ground	12	9
Mr. Baldwin for black Adam Tenemt	8		Gilbert Thornton		9
James Walton		9	Ralph Jolly		9
Jonathan Walton	4	6	Occrs. of Cookeson house		9
Mr. John Grange	1	6	Richard Naylor	4	6
Bal, Heyes	8	' 3	Occrs. of Matthew Markland house		9

Scholes in 1720.

Occrs. of John Heyes's Lands£	4 :	10 <u>1</u>	Occrs. of Mr. Letherbarrow's Mill£	1	6
James Bancks, son of Adam		9	Thomas Bullocke		9
Shoemakers' Hall		0	Hugh Harpur		9
James Finch Clarke		9	Wm. Mort		41
Occrs. of Mr. Gilbert Ford's house and			Joshua Lee		9
ground	3	0	John Markland		9
		Soo	r.ips		
Occrs, of Wm. Green's house£		0	Occrs. of Henry Tonge house£		9
Samuell Roobotham	8	ŏ	Matthew Rosbotham		9
Occrs. of Burges's ground	1	6	Occrs. of Humphrey Fairbrother house		9
Occrs, of Robert Bancks's house and	•	•	Occrs. of Ralph Langshaw house		9
ground	1	11	James Langshaw, Sen	3	9
Occrs. of Robert Bancks, Scole fields	2	3	Gilbert Langshaw	0	
Wm. Orrell	2		Myles Laithwait		4½ 0
		41	•		-
Occrs. of Robert Burges's house		41	Thomas Langshaw		1½
Occrs. of Robert Orrell's house		9	James Pemberton	1	· .
Mr. Allanson, house		9	Occrs. of the Benny Croft	_	41
Charles Hartcliffe		4	James Ford	1	6
Occrs. of Edward Fairclough's house		9	Occrs. of Richard Laithwaite house	_	
Occrs. of Mr. Bancks's house		9	and grd	8	
Ralph Browne		9	Occrs. of Robert Langshawhouse and grd.	2	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Occrs. of Mr. Edge's house		9	Hugh Ford, Founder		0
Mr. James Browne	2	$7\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas Parr	1	6
John Barker		41	Nathan Glave		41/2
Occrs. of Emm. Moudling's house		41/2	Nicholas Parr	2	_
Occrs. of Robert Marsden's house		9	Occrs. of Wm. Parr house		0
Adam Rigby	8	9	Occrs. of Dyer's Wife ground	2	-
James Wood		9	Ralph Bancks, Jun., for Cookeson house		9
Edward Prescott		9	Christopher Ford		41
Ralph Ashton		9	Thomas Molineux		41/2
Luke Ashton		4 <u>1</u>	Robert Forth	4	11/2
John Smith, house and ground	3	9	Mr. Ford	5	3
Robert Browne		9	Hugh Hollinshead	1	11/2
James Langshaw, Sergt		9	Wm. Whitle, new house		0
Occrs. of Mr. Laithwaite's house		9	John Foster		0
Occrs. of Mr. Moody's house		9	Peter Latham		9
Thomas Ford de Yate	1	6	Occrs. of James Delroy house		9
Occrs. of Boore's house		9	Henry Greenough		9
Occrs. of Francis Brocke's house		41	Wm. or Gabriel Woods, for part of		
Occrs. of Belsher's house		41	Acton house		41
Wm. Whitle	1	10 1	John Latham	3	_
Occrs. of Charles Bancks house and			James Bancks, for Thomas Lowe house		0
grd.	1	6	Richard Fizakerley, house		41
Occrs, of Bridgeman's house	-	9	Richard Withnall	3	
Occrs. of Needham house		9	Thomas Latham house	-	9
Gilbert Wood, for house		41	Thomas Bamber		41
Occrs. of Kearsley house	1	6	James Orrell		41
Occrs. of Billiord Fields	2	3	Thomas Blackhurst		0
Overs, or Difficial Ligids	_	v	THOMAS DISCRIPTION		•

Distory of Wigan.

Edward Tyrer£	;	9	Elizabeth and Mary Belsher£		4}
Samuel Fogg, for Wood's house		41	John Latham, Dyer		41
Mr. Baldwin, for an acre late in the			Richard Anderton	1	6
possession of Widdow Latham		9	Mrs. Scott, for her trade		0
		STANT	DISHGATE.		
Occrs. of Mr. Marsh house and ground 2	7		Richard Naylor house	1	6
Occrs. of Mr. Jolly house	•	9	Wm. Glazebrook	•	0
Thomas Rigby		9	Richard Moneks		0
James Winnard Daughter		9	Ralph Green	1	6
Mr. Bancks	2	3	Robert Baldwin	•	9
Occrs. of Michael Wood's house	_	9 .	Thomas Lithgoe		9
Mrs. Gerard	1	11	Wm. Casson		9
Mrs. Sumner	•	9	Henry Fleetwood		9
Mr. John Markland	9	41	Occrs. of Wild Mill	3	·
Occrs, of Mr. Mort house and ground	10	11	Christopher Baldwin 1	7	41
Occrs. of Madam Willis house and		-2	Mr. Wm. Leigh	•	0
ground	11	6	Robert Letherbarrow	1	6
Occrs. of Jonathan Standish house		41	Dr. Francis Worthington	•	9
James Hollinshead	2	71	Occrs. of Mr. Anderton's house		9
Occrs. of Robert Hollinshead house	_		Occrs. of Robert Moss house		41
and ground	6		Hugh Forth		9
John Letherbarrow	1	6	Occrs. of Whaley house		9
Wm. Higham	1	6	Richard Holme		9
Wm. Rogerson	_	9	Dr. Thomas Worthington house		9
Peter Seddon		41	Mr. Sumner		0
Alderman Hollinshead	4		George Mawdsley	1	11
Thomas Taylor		41	Thomas Kearsley	1	6
Wm. Fleetwood	3	o	Robert Baldwin		9
Occrs, of Moulding house		9	Occis. of Jeffrey Scott's house and		•
Occrs. of John Bolton house		9	ground.	5	3
Edward Jolly	1	6	James Lever		9
William Nightingall		9	Peter Green	1	6
John Wigan		0	Mr. Bridge, Clock Maker		9
Edward Greenhough		9	George Winstanley		9
John Laithwaite		9	John Barkley		9
John Hodgon		41	Gilbert Hollinshead	1	6
Gilbert Green		9	Occrs. of Peter Whaley house		9
Mr. Holt 2	13	8	James Wood Bedder house		9
Mr. John Walmsley		9	Occrs. of Mr. Parr house and ground	1 1	101
Wm. Baldwin	2	71	James Laithwaite		9
Occrs. of Tompson house		0	Dr. Worthington	3	
James Bolton	1	6	Occrs. of Casson house		9
Edward Bolton		9	Occrs. of Ralph Wackfield house		9
Edward Prescott		0	Occrs. of Thomas Laithwaite house		9
Occrs. of Myles Ford house		41	Henry Baron		0
Occrs. of Harvey house		9	Occrs. of Edge house		0
James Holme		41	Occrs. of Osbourne house		9
Phineas Dean		41	Thomas Atherton		41

Theophilus Ward£		$4\frac{1}{2}$	James Parr£		0
James Mort		41	Ralph Bolton		0
Occrs. of Charles Leigh house and acre	1	6	Roger Letherbarrow		9
Occrs. of Richard Urmston house		9	John Blundell		9
Mr. Martin	1	6	Jeffrey Latham		9
Alice Roper	1	6	Thomas Fisswick	1	6
Bertie Entwissel, Esq	9	9	Ralph Bancks	3	9
Thomas Gerard, Esq	3		Mr. Catterall		9
Thomas Walkden		9	Wm. Maudesley		41
Mr. Chaddock	1	6	Mr. James Parron		9
		Wood	HOUSES.		
James Rigby£	6		Occrs. of Hermitage£	1	6
James Letherbarrow	2	3	Occrs. of Henry Bullock house and grd.	3	9
Wm. Green	1	6	John Rigby	2	3
Mrs. Courghey	16	6	Occrs. of Hugh Cooper's lands	8	
Alexander Tyrer	1	11/2	Occrs. of Mr. Markland house and grd. 1	4	0
Occrs. of Mr. Standish house and grd	7	6	John Harvey	10	6
Daniel Roobotham	7	6	Wm. Farbrother		9
Peter Winstanley house and grd		9	Wm. Catterall		41
Occrs. of Bates house and grd	6	9	· Thomas Bibby		9
Occrs. of Mr. Turner lands	6		John Taylor		9
Occrs. of Coate Barn house		41/2	Wm. Clitherow		9
Occrs. of Holmes house and grd	15		Edward Catterall		9
Edward Letherbarrow		41/2			
) oo	UPIERS	OF, LANDS.		
Occrs. of Mr. Houghton lands£	3		Occrs. of Russell Heyes£	3	9
Mr. Brown, of Ince	18		Occrs. of Mort Eyes		9
John Worthington	1	6	Occrs. of Andrew Barne ground	1	10 <u>1</u>
Occrs. of Gerard Leyland meadow		9	Ralph Waite		41
Occrs. of Mr. Thomas Scott lands	4	6	Occrs. of Mr. Catterall lands	10	10 <u>1</u>
James Leyland Fuller	1	11	_		
Rectory and Tythes of Wigan 2	8		Total£48	14	71

According to the information gleaned by the Charity Commissioners of 1828, "John Baldwin, by his will bearing date 21st May, 1720, demised to his son William and his heirs a messuage with the appurtenances, in Standishgate, in Wigan, a close in the back of the said messuage called Barker's Croft, and a close in Wigan called Pilly Toft, lying near the school common, charged with the payment of £100, which Orlando Bridgeman, Esq., had previously given to him on trust that the same should be put forth at interest, and the yearly produce employed for the binding of two poor boys, settled inhabitants of Wigan, apprentices, and with the payment of the yearly interest thereof until his said son William Baldwin or his heirs should discharge themselves from the said trust by paying in the principal to their trustees to be nominated by the said Orlando Bridgeman during his life, or after his death by his heirs or assigns, for the purposes aforesaid; and the said testator charged

the said premises with the payment of an annuity of £3 to Thomas Baldwin and John Baldwin, his two sons and their heirs upon trust yearly, therewith to bind one poor boy apprentice, being a settled inhabitant of Wigan; and he gave them a power of distress in case of non-payment." By indenture of lease and re-lease bearing date 18th and 19th May, 1821, reciting the will above abstracted and further reciting that the sum of £100 charged by the will of the said John Baldwin as above-mentioned had been in December, 1723, paid off by the representatives of the said William Baldwin to Alexander Leigh by order of the mayor and a majority of the aldermen of Wigan, to be employed in purchasing a croft wherein to build a school, it being then declared by the said mayor and aldermen that the sum of £100 was given by Orlando Bridgeman for building a poor school or such other charitable use as the Mayor and Aldermen should direct. Fletcher Rainford and William Gale, in whom the premises therein after-mentioned were then vested, with the consent of the other parties to the said indentures, conveyed to the use of John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron, their heirs and assigns, the close above-mentioned called the Pilly Toft, containing by estimate one acre, large measure, subject to the payment of the above-mentioned annuity of £30; and it was agreed between the parties that the said close called the Pilly Toft should be alone charged therewith, and that the other premises mentioned in the will of John Baldwin should be for ever discharged from the payment of the said annuity.

"By indenture, bearing date 28th February, 1823, between John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron of the one part, and William Eccles and James Cardwell of the other part, reciting the above abstracted indentures, the said John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron conveyed to the said William Eccles and James Cardwell, as his trustee and their heirs, the southerly part of the close called Pilly Toft, containing 3,978 yards, including one moiety of part of the river Douglas, charged with the payment of the said sum of £3 a year, it being agreed between the parties that each part of the said close should be alone charged with the payment of the said annuity.

"On that part of Pilly Toft which was by the preceding deed intended to be charged exclusively with the payment of the yearly sum of £3 a large factory is built; the premises still belong to Mr. W. Eccles, and since he has been in possession he has applied £3 annually in binding a poor boy apprentice to some respectable trade. He has not strictly confined the benefit of the charity to boys belonging to Wigan, not having been fully aware of the directions of the donor. He has, however, always acted upon the recommendation of Sir Robert Clayton, who is related to the family of Baldwin."

Although there was a happy and promising revival of enterprise and ambition

in the borough, the sanitary condition of the town was never thought of. Public drainage was not even dreamt of, and water, the greatest necessity of life, was only obtainable as a scarce commodity from private sink wells. Indeed, it was not until 1764 that an Act of Parliament was passed for supplying the borough and town of Wigan with fresh and wholesome water, not at the public expense, but merely as a The preamble of that Act set forth that "the inhabitants of the borough and town of Wigan, in the county palatine of Lancaster, not only suffer many inconveniences for want of being supplied with a sufficient quantity of good and pure water for their necessary occasions, but great losses have frequently happened by Fire, for want of Water to extinguish the same, there being very little or no Water in the most populous and public Part of the said Town." men to bring water to Wigan at their own expense were Thomas Blinkhorn and Thomas Noltim. They conveyed it from two places, springs in Wigan Lane and the By Well or Boy Well in Scholes. These speculators then sold the water in Wigan, and were only compelled to give it for nothing in case of fire; but of this more will be said in its chronological order.

It was in the year 1720 that the representatives for Wigan, Earl Barrymore and Sir Roger Bradshaigh, built for the town a new town hall in the Market Place. After strange vicissitudes, additions, and repairs, this silent witness of political and other Wigan annals was pulled down in 1882 to satisfy the spirit of modern improvement. The small quadrangular building in its last days had the original hall divided into booths occupied by butchers, who, through long possession, claimed proprietorship, whilst the upper portion was useless, and conspicuous only by its railed balcony, from which many a political speech in the old husting-days had been delivered. Two inscriptions were affixed on separate iron tablets to what was by moderns called the Old New Town Hall, one notifying the erection of the original building, and the other referring to the enlargement which consisted of the aforesaid railed balcony and outside stairs. The whole building was condemned as a public obstruction, and pulled down in 1882 to complete the improvements then effected in that part of the borough,

The great dream of Wigan, however, that might have made Wigan great, is only commemorated by the Act passed in 1720 for making the river Douglas, alias Asland, navigable from the river Ribble to Wigan. It was not only a commercial enterprise but a philanthropic one, for one of the arguments advanced in its favour was that it would "very much tend to the Imploying and increase of Watermen and Seamen" (?). The power to act was given, but, unfortunately, was never taken advantage of. The extent of power given to the undertakers, William Squire, Esq., and Thomas Steers, Gent., both of Liverpool, was only limited by expediency. All the watercourses connected with the Douglas were to be used if required, and any

amount of land was to be granted for bridges, sluices, locks, weirs, pens for water. stanks, dams, cranes, wharves, and other works. They were empowered to appropriate land belonging to the king, public, or corporate bodies or private individuals, and to remove all impediments that might hinder navigation, either in "failing, haling, towing, or drawing" boats, barges, lighters, or other vessels with men or horses, or Satisfaction had, of course, to be first given to the proprietors for all properties appropriated. A large and influential body of local gentlemen, including the Parliamentary representatives and Mayor and Recorder of Wigan, were appointed commissioners for the settling, determining, and adjusting all matters about which any difference of agreement between the undertakers and the proprietors of property Any five or more of these Commissioners had the power of deciding the amount of purchase money. No one having a personal or monetary interest in the concern could be a Commissioner, and those who held property at a less yearly value than one hundred pounds were disqualified. The termination of the canal was to be The rates were fixed, as may be seen from the sixth and at Miry Lane End. seventh paragraphs of this Act:-

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid that, for and in consideration of the great charge and expenses the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall be at, not only in making the said River Douglas, alias Asland, navigable as aforesaid, but also in making, erecting, repairing, cleansing, maintaining, keeping up, and continuing the wears, works, locks, dams, sluices, bridges, cranes, wharfs, and other matters necessary to be made and erected as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, and no others, from time to time and at all times hereafter to ask, demand, recover, and take, to and for their own proper use and behoof, in respect of their charges and expenses aforesaid, for all and every such coal, cannel, stone, slate, and other goods, wares, merchandises, and commodities whatsoever, as shall be carried or conveyed in any beat, barge, or other vessel in, upon, to, or from any part of the said River Douglas, alias Asland, between the said River Rible and the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid, such rate and duty, rates and duties for tonnage, as the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall think fit, not exceeding two shillings and sixpence for every ton weight of such coal, cannel, stone, slate, and other goods, wares, merchandises, and commodities, and so proportionably for every greater or lesser weight or quantity; the same rate and duty, rates and duties, to be paid at such place or places near to the said river, and in such manner as the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall think fit (viz.), for every ton weight of coal, cannel, slate, stone, or other goods, wares, merchandises, or commodities that shall be carried or conveyed in any boat, barge, or other vessel up the said river, from the River Rible to the town of Wigan, or down the said river, from the said town of Wigan to the said River Rible, any sum not exceeding two shillings and sixpence per ton, and so proportionably for every greater or lesser weight.

Provided always that the said rate and duty, rates and duties, payable for coals and cannel carried and conveyed from the said Miry Lane End, and from every the coal and cannel works or mines, or from any parts or places upon or near to the said river, below the said Miry Lane End, down to the said River Rible, shall be equally one and the same, and not greater or lesser rate and duty, rates and duties, from any one work, mine, or part of the said river than from another, to any person or persons whatsoever; and in case of neglect, refusal, or denial of payment on demand of such rate and duty, or

rates and duties above-mentioned, the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall and may sue for the same by action of debt or upon the case in any Court of Record whatsoever; or detain, or stop and detain any coal, cannel, stone, slate, or other goods, wares, merchandises, or commodities whatsoever, for which the said rate and duty, or rates and duties, ought to be paid as aforesaid, or any boat, barge, or vessel carrying the same, until they shall be paid or satisfied for the same.

One privilege was to be given to occupiers and owners of land, that of using any pleasure boat on the river without payment of any rate to the undertakers. Of course, they were debarred from doing any business whatever with such boats, either for themselves or others, except in cases where agricultural necessaries were being removed from one part of the property to the other. In the same manner such persons preserved their old liberties of fishing and fowling in the neighbourhood. The extent of such uses of the river may be gathered from paragraphs 13 and 14, which are as follow:—

And it is hereby also further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, that the said River Douglas, alias Asland, is and for ever hereafter shall be esteemed and taken to be navigable from the said River Rible to the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid; and that all the King's liege people whatsoever may have and lawfully enjoy their free passage in, along, through, and upon the said River Douglas, alias Asland, or any part thereof between the said River Rible and the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid, with boats, barges, lighters, and other vessels, and also all necessary and convenient liberties for navigating the same, without any let, hinderance, or obstruction from any person or persons whatsoever, paying such rate and duty, rates and duties, as are by this Act appointed to be paid to the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns.

Saving always and reserving to the lords, owners, or proprietors of all royalties and liberties of fishing or fowling in or upon the said river, streams, or watercourses, their respective rights and privileges of fishing and fowling in and upon the same, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

CHAPTER X.

Customs—Notchel Crying—Funeral Feasts—Moot Hall—Brown's Charity—Mort's
Charity—Charity of Welles and Diggles—Improvement of Trades—Burgesses and
People—Court Leet Transactions—Cases Tried—Foreigners and Fines—The Offence
of bringing home Swine on Sunday, and the Penalty—Petitions of Thomas
Chadwick, Linen Weaver; Richard Tyrer, Cooper; James Bullock, Tailor; Richard
Richardson, Weaver, Ince—Court of October—Grand Jury—Petitions of John
Ellom, Weaver, Newtown; Gerrard Winstanley; John Langshaw, Pewterer; John
Leyland, John Houlcroft, Ralph Leyland, and Nicholas Parr—Hardman's Charity.

VOLUME might be written on the local quack superstitions. adopted for cures of simple or peculiar diseases or complaints were as numerous and strange as the freaks of young women anxious to find lovers. A common complaint among children is whooping cough, and a strange belief existed that any person riding into the neighbourhood on a piebald horse could cure the ailment, by any prescription he might there and then make, although he really knew nothing of disease or medicine. Mr. C. W. Montague, a stranger to the district, ignorant of the prevailing belief, was unlucky enough to ride into the town on such a horse. women in the district, of whom he had heard many unpleasant and terrible tales, rushed to him, gesticulating vociferously. He was alarmed, especially when one of them laid hold on the bridle and demanded a recipe for whooping cough. He was no doctor, and told them so in vain, but at the suggestion of his servant, on finding their persistence, he wrote a prescription for very mild rhubarb pills, for which the suppliants were very thankful, and treated him with savage glee, whilst he meanwhile was amazed and wondered what it was all about.

In the advertising columns of the *Wigan Observer* of the present day there are many instances of irate husbands proclaiming the untrustworthiness of their spendthrift spouses, but this is but the new style of a very old town's custom, when the public bellman was the great advertising medium. When such a proclamation was to be made the bellman rang his bell in the Market Place and at the corners of streets, crowds of

children or gossiping women, with their bare arms akimbo, gathered round, and, proud of the importance of his vocation, he stentoriously proclaimed the name and address of the unhappy wife, and further declared that the injured husband would no longer be responsible for any debt or debts contracted by her. After this public denouncement no one who gave her credit could make a legal claim. Spirited wives would not quietly submit to this exposure, and, besides quiet curtain lectures, they generally hired the bellman on the following day to make public the meanness of the husbands, and thus were revenged. This custom was called "notchel crying." If indolent, unthankful, and grumbling husbands, who are now supported by the earnings of their hard-wrought wives, were thus exposed, it might have a good social effect.

It was customary in Lancashire to feast those who came to a funeral, a custom called a carval or arval, which really answered the same purpose among the poorer classes as the custom of endowing chantries by the rich, being neither more less than a paying for prayers for the welfare of the souls of the dead. It was often stipulated in wills that such drinkings and feastings should be paid for out of estates left by the deceased. When it was not so stated, the friends treated all who came to the funeral to bread and ale at some neighbouring tavern.

No wonder the walls and ceilings of the old Moot Hall had lost their original whiteness. It was not age alone that made them musty: not the filthy clothing of rascally prisoners that begrimed the seats and darkened the plaster: not the smoke from the bad coals in their fires. The meetings there might just as well have been held and judgment given in a low public-house. Students are supposed to be most industrious when they have their glass of ale and pipe beside them; so it was with judges and jury in the Moot Hall. Each was invariably provided with his jug of beer and churchwarden pipe, perhaps because they were considered good disinfectants or because they could the more soothingly give their attention to the cases.

All the particulars contained in the following accounts of the local charities are taken from the published results of the Charity Commissioners' investigations:—

William Brown, by his will bearing date 12th October, 1724, and proved at Chester, devised all his houses, outhousing, and lands at Poolstock, after the decease of his wife, charged as hereinafter mentioned, to trustees, with directions to sell the same. And after reciting that his uncle, George Brown, by his will, gave £10, the yearly interest to be laid out in wheat bread, to be distributed to the eldest poor people in Wigan, every Christmas Day, in the Parish Church of Wigan, the said testator gave £30, the yearly interest whereof he directed should be charged on his said houses and lands at Poolstock, and should be laid out in sixpenny wheaten loaves, to be distributed by his son, George Brown, his heirs and assigns, one-half

every Christmas Day and the other half every Easter Monday: and he further charged the said premises at Poolstock with the said sum of £10 given by his uncle, George Brown, and the interest thereof.

By indenture of feoffment bearing date 17th September, 1729, between Matthew Markland of the first part and Thomas Mort, of Damhouse, the Rev. Samuel Aldersley, rector of Wigan, and six others, of the other part, the said Matthew Markland, in consideration of £121 ls., granted and enfeoffed to the said Thomas Mort, and other parties of the second part, and their heirs, two closes, called Throstle Nests, or Baron's Fields, near a lane in Wigan, called Gidlow Lane, containing by estimation 2a. 1r. 20p., on the trusts thereinafter expressed; and it was declared that £120, part of the consideration, was the money of Thomas Mort, who had many years before deposited the same in the hands of the said John Markland, to the end that the yearly profits thereof might be employed in binding apprentice to some lawful trade or occupation the children of some of the poor inhabitants legally settled in Wigan, and that for perpetuating the said charity the said John Markland had, with the consent of the said Thomas Mort, laid out the same, with 21s. of his own money, in the purchase of the premises above mentioned; and it was agreed that out of the first rents the said sum of 21s. shall be re-paid, and that afterwards the clear yearly rents should be employed for the binding such poor children as aforesaid, at the election of the said Thomas Mort, as long as he should live, and afterwards of the majority of the said trustees; and it was provided that, upon the death of any three or more of the said trustees for the time being, the survivors or survivor, or his heirs, should nominate such other persons, residing or having estates in Wigan, as they shall think meet, to be added to the survivors in a proper conveyance of the premises, whereby they might become co-trustees thereof, the rector of Wigan always to be one.

It appears from Mr. Barton's accounts (Mr. Barton was the only surviving trustee), which he produced to us for the year 1803, that he had received £354 18s., being 26 years' rent from January, 1803, to January, 1828, both inclusive, and that he had paid eight apprentice fees of £4 each annuity to £32; of these apprentices three were placed out in 1810, one in 1811, one in 1827, and three in 1828. Mr. Barton is also entitled to credit for a sum of about £20, for the amount of the property tax up to 1816, and of some payments on account of the poors' rates, If credit be given him for this sum, there would still be due from him a balance of upwards of £300.

The great irregularity which has occurred in the administration of this charity has arisen from the embarrassed state of Mr. Barton's affairs. Several years ago he became insolvent, notwithstanding which he continued very improperly to receive

the rents, and, except in the years 1810 and 1811, nothing was applied to the purposes of the charity from 1803 to 1827.

Mr. Barton declares that he is unable to pay in the balance now due from him, which we have reason to believe is the fact; but he has engaged to advance every year as long as he lives, until the balance is liquidated, a sufficient sum to pay for the apprenticing of twelve boys at £4 each.

We are given to understand that credit may be given to Mr. Barton for punctually fulfilling this arrangement, but we conceive that the payments should be made to the other trustees, who should see to the proper application thereof, and that the rents should in future be received by them, and regular accounts kept as well of the money paid by Mr. Barton towards the discharge of the balance now due from him as of the receipts and disbursements connected with the current income; and that the trustees should meet at least once or oftener every year for the purpose of auditing the accounts, appointing the boys to be bound out apprentices, and inquiring into the characters of the masters with whom they are to be placed.

By indenture of bargain and sale enrolled in the Court of Chancery, and bearing date 2nd July, 1737, between Daniel Welles and William Hulton of the first part; John Markland, the Rev. Samuel Aldersley, and William Curghey of the second part; and Margaret Diggles, widow, of the third part; reciting that Ellen Welles, widow, by her will, bearing date 24th March, 1726, gave a bond for £100 to her two sons, Thomas and Daniel Welles, and the said John Markland and his heirs, as trustees, to purchase land or a rent-charge, and to employ the produce thereof in clothing, after a decent manner, such poor people as should frequent the communion of the Parish Church of Wigan as they should think fit; and that she charged her real estates with the payment of so much money as, with the principal and interest of the said bond, would make up £200; and further reciting that the said Daniel Welles was the survivor, and paid the said sum of £200 to the said John Markland, and that the said Margaret Diggles had, as a free donation, advanced the further sum of £100 to be applied to the uses thereinafter mentioned, and that the said John Markland had determined to lay out the two several sums of £200 and £100 in the purchase of the closes thereinafter mentioned, and to add the above-named Samuel Aldersley and William Curghey as trustees for the management of the said charity; the said Daniel Welles and William Hulton, in consideration of £300, bargained and sold to the said John Markland and others, parties of the second part, and their heirs, three closes, called the Page Fields, in Wigan, containing by estimation five acres and a half, at eight yards to the perch, subject to the payment of the chief rent of 1s. 10d. upon trust, to dispose of the clear yearly rents and

profits thereof, viz., two-third parts thereof in clothing, after a decent manner, such poor inhabitants of Wigan frequenting the communion of the Lord's Supper in the Parish Church of Wigan, as the said Daniel Welles and the said trustees should think fit; and the other third part either for clothing such poor persons as above described, or the binding apprentices such poor children of the inhabitants of Wigan as the said trustees should think fit; and it was provided that whenever the trustees should be reduced to two or one, the survivors or survivor should choose so many more as should make up the number of four, so that the heir of the said Daniel Welles and the heir of the said John Markland for the time being should be always included.

The premises above mentioned have been conveyed from time to time to new trustees, and another deed of appointment was in preparation at the period of our inquiry, September, 1828, the Honourable the Reverend George Bridgeman and Thomas Barton being the only survivors.

The property called Page Fields consists of three closes in Frog Lane, in Wigan, containing about five and a half acres, at eight yards to the perch. Upon these premises a cottage was built, about four years ago, by the churchwardens, who applied to this purpose a sum of £78 0s. 6d., which was placed in a bank at Wigan to the account of the churchwardens, being the amount of a sum of money which had been levied as fines and penalties, and the interest which had accrued thereon.

These premises are let to the churchwardens and overseers of the township of Wigan for the use of the Workhouse; the yearly rent of £35 is reserved for the land, and the churchwardens and overseers also pay over to the trustees, or their agent, the rent for which they underlet the cottage, near £7 a year—these are stated to be fair rents. The cottage is in bad condition, the foundation having given way; but we are informed it might be properly supported at an expense of £10. The rent is paid to the rector's agent and carried to an account with a portion of Sixsmith's and of Guest's charities. The amount is disposed of chiefly in cloth and linen, which is made up into garments and given to such poor persons of the town of Wigan as are thought by the rector the most deserving objects. Within the three last years two apprentices have also been bound out, with premiums of £4 each, paid out of these charities. When the accounts were made up in January, 1828, there was a balance of £5 15s. 11d. in the hands of Mr. Smith (rector's agent).

Trade was steadily but slowly developing in Wigan. The great awakening effort at enterprise of 1720 seemed to be choked at its very birth by the failure to carry out the Act for navigating the Douglas, and the wonder is, not so much that it died, or declined then, but rather that the naturally conservative spirit of Wigan ever allowed the idea to become an Act. No town in England was more closely

hemmed in by restrictive laws or so imbued in the spirit of protection. It was governed by the strictest of old Toryism and Redtapeism. The burgesses were proud and unbending, and the people owned them as their municipal masters. The gates were closed in the face of able-bodied strangers, both able and willing to work, and who themselves might have fostered new trades or given their remunerative energies to the staple ones. At every Court Leet dozens of such persons were fined for daring to try to settle in the ancient and loyal borough, and ordered to go at once, unless they could produce excellent credentials as to their fitness to work and ability to maintain themselves in every likely emergency of misfortune or distress. were the laws against the inhabitants themselves in this respect less strict. the days of their forefathers, so now-in 1742-severe penalties were imposed on those who harboured strangers, who paid honestly and well for their lodging. show what power the Corporation had to humble a burgess, and what a suppliant that burgess had to become, the case may be cited of Nicholas Parr, who was perhaps related to the founder of the great local bank, although I am unable definitely to He had been elected a burgess in the beginning of the year 1742, and in autumn he was elected to the office of bailiff by the Court Leet, but refused to He was immediately disfranchised for contempt, and was not restored to his liberties until, on the 2nd of October of the same year, he made a most humble and public apology, in which he confessed he "did, in open court, in contempt, obstinately and contemptuously refuse to take upon him the said office," and for which he "was afterwards legally and justly disfranchised from being a burgess of this Corporation and the liberties and privileges thereof, for which he is now really sorry and asks pardon of this Court, promises to behave himself well and more carefully for the future, and begs he may be restored upon this his liberties and privileges of a burgess, and that he may enjoy the same in as full and ample a manner as he formerly has done, and according to the customs and privileges of this Corporation" Beside this might be cited the humble petitions of poor, honest men, who had striven to "educate" themselves for the important office of waits or for the duties of awaking workpeople in the morning. These petitions appear in the subjoined list, which has not before been published, and will fittingly bring this chapter to a close. The following is a complete account of the preserved records of the Court Leet for 1742, the original of which is the property of the Corporation, and is preserved in the strong room at the Borough Courts. First there is given the following list of officials:-

Benchers.

Mr. Alderman Markland.

Mr. Alderman Baldwin.

Mr. Alderman Ugnall.

Mr. Alderman Markland.

Bailives.	Mr. Richd. Leigh. Mr. Adam Bancks.
Serjeants.	Wm. Rogerson. Thomas Taylor.
Attorneys.	Mr. Leigh. Mr. Richd, Topping.
Gaitwaiters.	mir. michic. ropping.
Market Street.	Phillip Hunt. Sworn.
Hallgate.	Geo. Layland. Sworn.
Wallgate.	Thos. Critchley Taylor. James Dawson.
Standishgate.	Wm. ffarbrother, Butcher. Sworn.
Millgate.	Wm. Mason. Sworn.
Scoles.	Thomas Clark. Thomas Lowe ye Younger.
Wood Houses.	Wm. Rainford. Sworn.
Surveyors of flesh	Robt. Critchley. Sworn.
and fish.	James Bullock,
Surveyors of bread (and Bear.	John Sephton. Wm. Winkley.
Searchers and Sealers of Leather.	Thomas Marsden. Sworn.

We, the Jury, Elect Mr. Wm. Curghey and Charles Withnell Burgesses of this Borough.

The commonest of all offences, that about foreigners and their being harboured, are first tried and settled. The charges against the accused are all in one handwriting—clear, bold, and legible—whilst the judgments of the jury are in another, but crabbed style.

The Jurors, upon their Oaths, say and present that

Scoles.

John Tognall is a foreigner and Inhabitant in this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore. He hath a Certificate. (This is entered in strange handwriting, without judgment being given.)

That Mr. John Markland doth Harbour the said John Tognall, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Ralph Morris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Curghey doth harbour the said Ralph Morris, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We ameroe him in 39 shillings.

That Thomas Taylor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Baldwin doth Harbour the said Thomas Taylor, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Margarett Dawber is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—Amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month's time.

That Mr. Baldwin doth Harbour the said Margarett Dawber, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Christopher Sherrock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america him in 89 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

That James Miller doth Harbour the said Christopher Sherrack, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We america him in 39 shillings.

That John Morton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Mr. Wm. Brown doth Harbour the said John Morton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Thomas Haddock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

Standishgate.

James Monks.

Wm. Belsher.

That Joseph Houghton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—

We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Ralph Baldwin doth Harbour the said Joseph Houghton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39s.

That Grace Hatton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Hugh Baron doth Harbour the said Grace Hatton, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That John Latham doth Harbour the said Mary Makcanister without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Robert Rudd is a foreigner and Inhabitant of the Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He's gone.

That Christopher Baldwin doth Harbour the said Robert Rudd, a foreigner, without such Certificate.

Therefore. (No judgment given.)

That Richard Poor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Wm. Baldwin doth Harhour the said Richard Poor, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We ameroe him in 39 shillings.

That William Fleetwood doth Harbeur the said Thomas Haddock, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Edward Low is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—A Certificate.

That Lawrence Fish is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 89s., unless he remove in a month.

That William Cooper doth Harbour the said Lawrence Fish, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Felix Martindale is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Simon Sale doth Harbour the said Felix Martindale, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Thomas Marsh is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Tootell doth Harbour the said Thomas Marsh, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Mary Makcanister is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Roger Foster is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Ralph Baldwin doth Harbour the said Roger Foster, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Hannah Meriah is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Thomas Bridge doth Harbour the said Hannah Meriah, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

Millgate.

John Molyneaux.

Richd. Wrennall.

That Thomas Askew is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—

We desire time to enquire whether he served his apprenticeship in this town or not.

That Ralph Heys is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—A Certificate.

That James Wilding is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order him to bring a Certificate in a month, or remove.

That James Taylor is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—A Certificate.

That Robert Bailey is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore. (No judgment given.)

Market Street.
John Prescott.
Oliver Rigby.

That Ann Liptroit is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—
We america her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

Wood Houses.
Oliver Bibby.
Peter Ascroft.

That Thomas Glazebrooke is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—
America him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That James Miller doth Harbour the said Thomas Glazebrooke, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That James Clarkson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That William Parr doth Harbour the said James Clarkson, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Richard Martin is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Thomas Lawrison doth Harbour the said Richard Martin, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Henry Farnworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Samuel Wright doth Harbour the said Henry Farnworth, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That George Norris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Edward Standish doth Harbour the said George Norris, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Anne Gleave is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Thomas Oldham doth Harbour the said Anne Gleave, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That George Bibye is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month, or bring a Certificate.

That Mr. James Hartliffe doth Harbour the said George Bibye, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Peter Fairhurst, Thomas Hickman, and Roger Knight let their Swine go at Large. Therefore:—We amerce each of them in 12 shillings.

Hallgate.
That Edward Rigby is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:

We america him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Zacharias Ashurst is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Jacobs is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Alice, the wife of John Bibye, brought home a Swine on the Sabbath Day, and abused the officer for doing his duty. Therefore:—We amerce her in 3s. 4d.

That John France is a Common disturber to all his Neighbours, both Day and Night. Therefore:—We amerce him in six shillings and eight pence.

That John Hart is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Scolefield is a foreigner and exercises a trade as an Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

That Ellis Dein is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings, unless he remove in a month.

Wallgate.
John Taylor.
John Kirk.

That Thomas Bibye is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no
Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We
americe him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That George Catterall doth harbour the said Thomas Bibye without such Certificate. Therefore:— We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Ralph Jackson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order him to get a Certificate, or remove in a month, or pay 39 shillings.

That Mr. Wm. Curghey doth harbour the said Ralph Jackson, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Joseph Lankester and Thomas Byrom are Foreigners and Inhabitants of this Town, having brought no Certificates of their last Legal Settlements Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—They have Certificates.

That Jane Baron doth harbour the said Joseph Lancaster and Thomas Byrom, foreigners, without such Certificates. Therefore:—(No judgment given).

That Peter Fairhurst is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Leigh doth harbour the said Peter Fairhurst, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings,

That Oston Dawber is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We america him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Mr. Thomas Barton doth harbour the said Oston Dawber, a foreigner, without such Certificate. Therefore: —We amerce him in 39 shillings.

That Sarah Houghton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

Hallgate.

George Leyland and Alex. Bradley.

That Wm. Johnson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute.

Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

That James Hardman is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—He hath a Certificate.

Wallgate.
Thos. Ccritchley and James Dawson.

That Eliz. Barton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute.

Therefore:—She hath a Certificate.

That John Prescott lays his Rubbidge at the Stone Well. Therefore:—We amerce him in 12 shillings.

That Alice Atherton is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:—We order her to bring a Certificate in a month or leave ye Town.

That Thomas Taylor is a very abusive and Troublesome Neighbour, and Harbours Travellers, and permits them to bear Children in his House. Therefore:—We ameroe him in 6s. 8d.

Wood Houses. That Henry Farnworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this town, having brought Wm. Rainford no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. and Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month. Samll. Wright.

That John Ranson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That David Hodson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:--We amerce him in 89s., unless he remove in a month.

That George Norris is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Eleanor Silcock is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -She hath a Certificate.

That Alice Moles is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of her last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore:-We amerce her in 39s., unless she remove in a month.

That Richard Martin is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Henry Southworth is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -He hath a Certificate.

That James Clarkson is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That Ralph Cooper is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Radcliff is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore :--We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Lowe is a foreigner and Inhabitant of this Town, having brought no Certificate of his last Legal place of Settlement Pursuant to the Statute. Therefore: -We amerce him in 39s., unless he remove in a month.

That John Naylor exercises the Trade of a Cooper, not being free. Therefore:—We amerce him in six shillings and eight pence a month during his working in this Corporation, unless he purchase a freedom in a month.

The presentment of Oliver Bibby and Peter Ascroft, Gatewaters for Wigan Wood houses, 1742. We present Thomas Glasbrook for a farener &) James Miller for Harbouring him.

James Clarkson do. William Parr for Harbouring him.

Richard Martin do. Thomas Sawrison for Harbouring him.

Henry Farnworth do. Samuel Right for Harbouring him.)

do. George Norris

Mr. Edward Standish for Harbouring him.

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Ann Gleave for a farener & }
Thomas Oldham for Harbouring her.

George Bibby do. & }
Mr. James Harttif for Harbouring him.

Thomas Bibby do. & }
George Catterall for Harbouring him.

Ralph Jackson do. & }
Mr. William Churgey for Harbouring him.

I present Ralph Widows A Farrender.

Mr. Barton for Harbaring him.
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I present Joseph Lancaster, and James Baron ditto for Harbaring him. Austen Dober ditto ditto and Widow Sharrock. Thos. Barton for Harbaring them. I present Peter Fairhurst ditto. Mr. Leigh for Harbaring him. I present Elizabeth Barton ditto. Mr. Tempest for Harbaring her. Margaret Sherlock ditto. I present Mrs. Thornton for Harbaring her. Jno. Prescot presented for laying his Rubbidge to a Stone Well. I present Alice Atherton ditto. Jno. Hardman for Harbaring her.

James Clarkson and Ralph Cauper. John Ratcliff, John Lowe.

A list of foreiners in the Scoles :-

Henry Molineu

John fognall Scool common Mr. John Marckland. Reyh Morris Scool common Mr. Cineley. Margaret Green Scool common boby Withnell. Thomas Taylor Margaret Dawber Mr. Baldwin. Christopher Shenrack James Mills stands. John Morton Mr. Wm. Brown. Tho. Haddock Willm. fleetwood. Edward Low. Lawrence fish Wm. Cowper. Phelis Martindale Simon Scul. Tho. Marsh Henry Tootell. Mary MacKanister John Latham. Robert Rudd. Richard Poor. Christopher Baldwin.

30th September, 1742, an account of all ye forinors in the milgate as follows:—

Mr. John Baldwin. John Hodson. Richard Harrison.

Thomas Achhow.
Ralpth Heys.
James Wilding.
Thomas Catteroll.
Thomas Catteroll, Juor.
James Taylor.
Robart Bayley.

James Wigan and Potter Brighous, gate waters for 5d. next year. September, W., 30th, 1742, presented by James Monks and William Bellsher, gate waters, Joseph Houston, a Farrener, and Ralf Balldwin for Harbouring him.

Grace Hatton, a Farrener, and Hugh Baron for Harbouring her.

Roger Foster, Currier, a Farrener, and Ralf Balldwin for Harbouring him.

Hanah Merioh, and Thos. Bridge for Harbouring her.

ann Liptroct, fariner, in the wheint.

The presentations were made by the gatewaiters of their several districts:-

January th. 1, 1742.

- I present william Johnson for a farinor.
- I likewise present Thomas byram for a farinor.
- I likewise present Zechariah ashhurst for a fariner.
- I likewise present James Hardman for a fariner.
- I likewise present John Jacobs for a fariner.
- I likewise present Henry Scoilfield for a fariner.
- I likewise present Ellic Dean for a fariner.
- I likewise present Edward Rigby for a fariner.
- I likewise present Thomas Taylor for a fariner, for scouling, and for lodgeing Travelers so long as one bore a Child at there house.

Gatewaters in ye Hallgate, Thomas Taylor and Roger Almond.

- pre. Edward Rigby, fariner.
- pre. Zacharias Ashurst, fariner.
- pre. John Jacobs, fariner.
- pre. Widow Winstanley, fariner.
- pre. John Biby wife for bringing a swine home on ye Sabath day, called and abused him for doing office.
- pre. John France for a comon uzz desturber, both me and my neighbours, both morning and night; we canot sleep in bed.
 - pre. John Hart's wife for folloing hugstering, being a fariner.

Henry Scofield, a fariner, for fowlong a trader, Ellis Dein, a fereigner.

John France,

Alexander Bradley,

gatewaters

for ye next year.

we present Joseph Lankster, fariner, and Thomas byrom, and James baron for Harboring of them both. we present peter farest for a fariner, and M. Leigh for Harboring of him. we present oston Dober, fariner, and Thomas Barton for Harboring of him. we present Sarah Houghton, fariner. we present likewise peter farest for leting there swine going at large, and Thomas hickman for is swine go at large, and Roger night for is swine going at large by

John Taylor and John kirk.

we presant peter farest, being a fariner, likewise his swine one presantable.

we presant oston Dober.

Wigan, jenuary 20th, 1742-3.

the names of the incommares:-

Henry Farnneth, David hodson, John Rowinson, Georg Norris, Fransis Egermonday, Ellinor Silcock, Alice moles, Richard martain.

Wigan Lean.

Although many of the above cases are of a similar, and some of them of a very paltry, nature, I have given them in full, as in the original MS., from which they are taken, for both in their number and nature they are a very good basis for the thinking reader to form an idea of the social condition of the town at the time (1742). Although in olden times, as a walled town, Wigan was a refuge for runaway slaves and foreigners, the burgesses seemed to have always had a very strong antipathy to strangers settling in their midst, and their reasons for it are very evident. They were clothed in that little authority which gave them power to accept or reject whomsoever they pleased; as burgesses they were strong political sectarians, who valued their burghal rights perhaps as much as any foreigner or barbarian of the middle ages ever did his freeborn citizenship of Rome, and, consequently, were loth to bestow them promiscuously on aliens; above all, from a purely protective spirit, they believed the granting, or rather selling, of freedom—the best means of bringing The unusually large influx of strangers in 1742 is easily wealth to the borough. accounted for from the fact that the country was in a most unsettled state. was great uncertainty about the stability of the Government, than which nothing can cause greater uneasiness in the money market, and a consequent want of confidence amongst capitalists and speculators. Able-bodied men could not get work where they were known, and so became what is known in modern times as tramps, wandering honestly in search of employment, and who, in most cases, after being soured of life by frequent disappointments, were easily induced to join the rebels, not so much from any strong political feelings, as simply a means of obtaining a livelihood. Ability to labour was not considered capital, and a man who had nothing but his healthy physical powers, and a will to work, was believed to be no acquisition to the town, but rather a likely object for claiming relief after a short residence. The following important burghal petitions will close this volume. They are not numbered in the original, but are so here for the convenience of the reader:-

(No. 1.)—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Alderman and Jury assembled at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the 22nd day of January, 1742.

The humble petition of Thomas Chadwick, Linen weaver,
Sheweth,—That your Petitioner is in very good circumstances, has no family, and is desirous to
inhabit and follow his Trade in your Corporation, and for that purpose to be admitted a freeman
thereof, he being willing to pay such a sum of money for his freedom as your Worships and the

Gentlemen of the Jury think proper.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he may be admitted a freeman of this your Corporation, he paying such a sum of money for his freedom as your Worships and you, Gentlemen of the Jury, shall think proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray. &c.

We Elect him a Freeman of this Corporation, he paying Four Pounds four shillings in a Month's time to the present Bailiffs.

(No. 2.)—To the Worshipfull John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury assembled at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the 22nd day of January, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Richard Tyrer, Cooper, on behalf of himself and the rest of the Coopers' freemen of the said Borough,

Sheweth,—That Peter Dykes, of Shevington, hath lately, without any right or authority whatsoever, come into your said Borough, and does exercise and practice the Trade of a Hollow ware Turner in the said Borough, to the great detriment of your Petitioner and others, freemen Coopers of this Corporation, and in defiance to the Laws of this Corporation.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that the gentlemen of the Jury may make answer to forbid and prevent the said Peter Dyke, under a severe fine, for practising the said trade of a Hollow ware Turner for the future, and your Petitioner be relieved as your Worships shall think meet and proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

22nd Jany., 1742.

We order your said Peter Dyke not to work at his said trade in this Corporation above, Thirty-eight days after the rate hereof, upon forfeiture of Thirty-nine shillings, and to pay Thirty-nine shillings per month if he stay longer.

(No. 3.)—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the rest of the Alderman and Jury at the Court Leet held by adjournment in and for the said Borough, the first day of January, 1742.

The Humble Petition of James Bullock, Taylor, on behalf of himself and the rest of the Taylors' freeman of the said Borough,

Sheweth,—That Robert Bailey, John Moreton, and Ralph Weedale, Taylors, have lately, without any right or authority whatsoever, come into the said Borough, and do exercise and practice their Trades in the said Borough, to the great detriment of your Petitioner and others, and in open defiance to the good and Salutary Laws of this your Corporation.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that they may be redressed and relieved according to the Circumstances of this Case, and as your Worships shall think meet and proper.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, and so forth.

We order Robert Bayley, John Moreton, and Ralph Widows each to remove in a month's time, or forfeit Thirty-nine Shillings each, and ye said sum for every month they stay afterwards.

The View of frank pledge or Leet of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in the Common Hall, within the Vill and Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, before Edward Holt, Esq., Mayor there, on Saturday, the second day of October, in the sixteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, King over Great Britain, France, and Ireland, according to the Custom of the same Borough (that is to say):—

Edward, Earl of Derby.

James, Earl of Barrymore.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Barronett.

Humphrey Trafford, Esquire.

Ralph Standish, Esquire.

The Heirs of Hugh Dicconson, Esquire.

The Heirs of William Daniel, Esquire.

The Heirs of Robt. Molyneaux, Esquire.

The Heirs of Thomas Mort, Esquire.

The Heirs of John Davis, Gentleman.

The Heirs of Robt. Penington, Gentleman.

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The Heirs of Hugh Jolley, Gentleman.
The Heirs of William Glover, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Robt. Markland, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Robt. Leatherbarrow, Gentleman.
The Heirs of John Bancks, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Christi Sumner, Gentleman.
The Heirs of John Curghey, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Henry Browne, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Edward Gorsuch, Gentleman.
The Heirs of William Brown.
Edward Standish, Gentleman.
The Heirs of William Marsh, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Charles Leigh.
The Heirs of Ralph Wakefield.
The Heirs of William Laithwaite.
The Heirs of James Rigby.
The Heirs of Ralph Tarleton.
The Heirs of William Ford.
The Heirs of Thomas Burgess.
The Heirs of William Foster.
The Heirs of John Laithwaite.
The Heirs of Henry Mason.
The Heirs of Bertie Entwistle, Esquire.
The Heirs of James Scott, Gentleman.
The Heirs of Robert Finch.
The Heirs of Robt. Foster, Brazier.
The Heirs of Ralph Langshaw, the Elder.
The Heirs of Ralph Bancks.
The Heirs of Robert Baldwin.
Thomas Acton.
The Heirs of John Baldwin, the Elder, Gentleman.
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In a document similar to the preceding one is the following list, from which the acting jurymen at this Leet were chosen:—

Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster.

The View of frank pledge or Leet of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in the Common Hall, within the Vill and Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, before Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor there, on Saturday, the second day of October, in the sixteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, King over Great Britain, France, and Ireland, according to the Custom of the same Borough (that is to say):—

The Names of the Burgesses within the said Vill and Borough (that is to say):-

The Heirs of James Tatlock, Gentleman. The Heirs of James Molyneaux. The Heirs of John Smith.

Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor.

Thomas Henry Ashurst, Esq., Recorder.

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James, Earl of Barrymore.
         Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Barronett.
         Roger Bradshaigh, Esquire.
         Leigh Master, Esquire.
         John Walmesley, Esquire.
         James Ford, Gentleman.
         James Tempest, Gentleman.
         Alexander Leigh, Gentleman.
         John Markland, Gentleman, dead.
         George Brown, Gentleman, dead.
         Thomas Bancks, Gentleman.
         John Baldwin, Gentleman.
          Mr. John Latham.
Bailives
           Mr. German Buxton, dead.
           Mr. Henry Holt.
           William Rogerson.
Serjeants {
           Luke Ashton.
Sword Bearer Rendal Crook, dead.
              Thomas Acton, foreman, Gentleman.
     app.
              Thomas Acton, the Elder, app. S.
     app.
              Ralph Baldwin, the Elder, app. S.
              James Bancks.
     app.
              Ralph Green, app. S.
              George Winstanley, app. S.
              James Acton, app. S., dead.
     app.
              Richard Hooton, app. S.
     app.
              Thomas Acton, the Younger, app.
              John Hardman, dead.
              William Browne, app. S., dead.
              Thomas Markland, app. S.
     app.
              Thomas Leatherbarrow, app. S.
     app.
               John Marsden, app. S.
     app.
               Richard Fairbrother, app. S.
     app.
              Miles Seddon, app. S.
     app.
               Jonathan Johnson, app. S.
              John Ugnall, app. S.
              Thomas Langshaw, the Elder, app., dead.
               William Higham, app. S.
               Thomas Taylor, app.
               Roger Bibby, app. S.
     app.
               Peter Hall, app. S.
     app.
               Gilbert Langshaw, app. S.
               William Langshaw, app. S.
              Richard Baron, d.
              Richard Leigh, app. S.
              Thomas Heys, Gentleman, d.
               Gerrard Tarleton, app. S.
     app.
              Henry Unsworth, app. S.
```

app.

Adam Bancks, app. S.

John Latham.

Edward Standish, app. S.

app.

Edward Woods, app. S.

app.

William Finch, app. S.

Thomas Withnell, app. 8.

Henry Mort, app. S., dead.

John Prescott.

William Woods, d.

app. Richard Holme, S.

We Elect Mr. John Ugnall an Alderman of this Borough.

We Elect Nicholas Parr a Burgess of ye same.

(No. 4.)—To the Worshipful Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Ellom, of Newtown, in the County of Lancaster, Butcher,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has for several years last past carried on the Trade of a Butcher, in Newtown aforesaid, frequented the Market of this Corporation, married the daughter of a freeman thereof, and by such marriage is Intitled to a Considerable Estate in fee simple in this Corporation, has a legal Right to Settlement there, is in good Circumstances, and desires to be admitted a Freeman of this Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly hopes you Gentlemen of the Jury will take your Petitioner's affair into due Consideration, and admit him a freeman of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Continued.

No. 5.)—To the Worshipful John Marckland, Esq., Mayor of the Borough and Corporation of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and the Alderman and Jury assembled at the Court Leet, held by adjournment there, the Twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord 1742.

The Humble Petition of Richard Richardson, of Ince-within-Mackerfield, in the said County, fustian weaver,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has been informed and believes that there is not any person that follows the trade of a fustian weaver within your Corporation, and conceiving that the said Trade, if carried on within your Corporation, might tend to the advantage thereof, not only by the Imployment of several poor persons, but by the resort of several that would, of course, frequent your Corporation by reason of such Trade. That your Petitioner has a considerable fortune, sufficient for the carrying on and management of the said Trade, and is desirous to settle amongst you, if you think proper to admit him a freeman of your Corporation, for which your Petitioner is willing to pay such a sum as shall be thought reasonable.

Your Petitioner, therefore, prays he may be admitted a freeman of this your Corporation.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

Continued.

Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster.

(No. 6.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the 2d day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Gerrard Winstanley,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has been Bellman of this your Corporation for severall years, has carried and demained himself all along very civily, is very diligent in his place, and always ready when wanted, and will continue so to be, and hopes he gives generall Satisfaction to the Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury to continue him Bellman, he having nothing else to depend upon, and he will ever pray.

Allowed.

(No. 7.)—To the Worshipful Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Langshaw, son of John Langshaw, of Wigan aforesaid, Pewterer,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner, being the son of a freeman of this Corporation, and having the misfortune to become lame, he has with great pains and Industry learned to get an honest Livelyhood, and to prevent himself from being troublesome to your Corporation. And your Petitioner further sheweth unto your Worships that Thomas Leyland, one of the Waits of this Corporption, died lately, and his place is yet Vacant.

Allowed.

No. 8.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holf, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Leyland,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner is the son of Thomas Leyland, deceased, who was a freeman, and for many years one of the Waits of this your Corporation, that he taught your Petitioner the art of Musick, in the hopes that your Petitioner might have the Happiness to succeed his said Father as one of the Waits aforesaid, which your Petitioner would now look upon as a very great favour, and will do all things in his power for the service of and the pleasure of this your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury that you would be pleased to permit him to succeed his said father as one of the Waits of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall pray, &c.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury that you would be pleased to permit him to succeed the said Thomas Leyland as one of the Waits of this your Corporation.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c. Allowed.

(No. 9.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of Cotober, 1742.

The Humble Petition of John Houlcroft,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner has for several years past gone along with the Waits, and knowing all the Inhabitants can call them by their several names, and has been very useful in having a diligent and watchful eye upon all strolling, idle persons that take opportunities in the night of Committing Robberies or mischievous acts, and used, and constantly will use his utmost Endeavours for the detecting of all such Villains, and preventing such Crimes in your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly begs you Gentlemen of the Jury to allow him to go as usual. And your Petitioner as (in duty bound) shall ever pray, &c.

Allowed.

(No. 10.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Ralph Leyland,

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner for several years last past has had the honour to go through this your Corporation in the Night time as one of the Waits thereof, and has given great satisfaction, not only as one of the Waits, but also in having a diligent, watchfull eye upon all strolling, idle persons that take opportunities in the Night of Committing any Robberies or mischievous acts, and used, and constantly will use his utmost endeavours for the detecting of all such Villains, and preventing of any such Crimes in your Corporation.

Therefore your Petitioner humbly prays you Gentlemen of the Jury to allow him to go as usual.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Allowed.

(No. 11.)—To the Worshipfull Edward Holt, Esquire, Mayor of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster, and to the Aldermen and Jury at the Court Leet held in and for the said Borough of Wigan aforesaid the Second day of October, 1742.

The Humble Petition of Nicholas Parr, late one of the Burgesses of the said Corporation.

Sheweth,—That your Petitioner some years since being regularly elected unto the office of one of the Bailives of this Corporation. That your Petitioner did, in open Court and in Contempt of the said Court, obstinately and Contemptuously refuse to take upon him the said office, for which your Petitioner was afterwards legally and justly disfranchised from being a Burgess of this Corporation, and the Liberties and privileges thereof, which your Petitioner is now really sorry for, asks pardon of this Court, promises to behave himself well and more Carefully for the future, and begs he may be restored, upon this his Liberties and privileges of a Burgess, and that he may enjoy the same in as full and ample a manner as he formerly has done, and according to the Customs and privileges of this Corporation.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

Nicholas Parr.

John Hardman, by his will, bearing date 27th April, 1742, and proved at Chester 8th August, 1743, bequeathed to Ralph Banks and Gerard Tarleton £200 upon trust after the death of Alice, his wife, to place the same out, or as much thereof as should not be lost, in the purchase of lands or a rent charge, the yearly produce thereof to be laid out in the purchase of cloth to be made into garments for the clothing of three old men and three old women, being poor impotent persons in and belonging to the town of Wigan who should never have had any relief from the inhabitants of the said town.

The sum of £200 above mentioned was, together with the further sum of £404 arising from various donations to the parish of Standish, lent in 1792 on a mortgage of premises in the Scholes, in Wigan, now belonging to John Hawarden. The mortgage deeds bear date 25th and 26th April, 1792, and the sum of £200 is thereby secured, with interest at £4 15s. per cent., payable to Elias Chadwick and his heirs, in whom it is stated the principal sum was then vested as executor of John Latham, the executor of Ralph Banks, who was the surviving executor of John Hardman.

The interest on this mortgage is received by Mrs. Chadwick, of Swinton, near Manchester, the widow of Elias Chadwick, the son of the mortgagee, and she disposes of it in the purchase of woollen coats and cloaks, which she sends to the Rev. Edward Hill, one of the curates of Wigan. He distributes these articles amongst poor persons of the town of Wigan, frequenting the church and sacrament, but he has not strictly confined it to such persons as do not receive parochial relief, not having been aware of this provision in the testator's will. We are given to understand that Mrs. Chadwick is desirous of giving up the trouble of the trust, and in such case it seems desirable that some proper persons of the town or neighbourhood of Wigan should be elected, to whom she should assign her interest in the mortgage above mentioned.—(Commissioners' Report in Free Library.)

ERRATA. - VOLUME I.

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Page 25.—All the information about the Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman, opposite date February 26th, 1801, should be omitted. He is the same reverend gentleman as the preceding George Bridgeman, who was about that time ennobled.

The Hon. and Rev. G. T. O. Bridgeman, the present Rector, was in 1864 collated by the Bishop of Chester.

Page 171.—On first line (contents) for 10th read 16th.

Page 233.—The election, on the elevation of Lord Lindsay to the Peerage, took place on January 18th, 1881 (not July, as stated).

The following election has taken place since the issue of the first volume:—
On the writ being issued to fill the vacancy caused by the unseating of Mr. Powell:

Dec. 2nd, 1882.—Hon. A. F. Egerton (C), 2,867; Mr. Walter Wren (L), 2,243.

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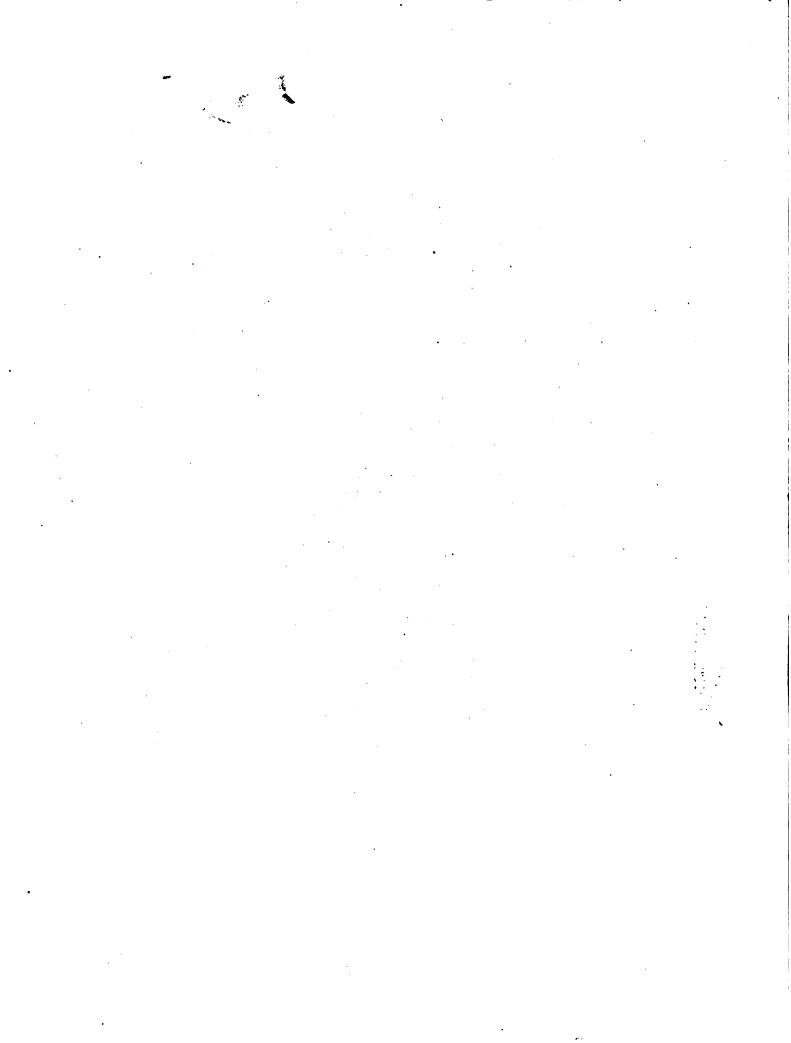
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